軍オタが魔法世界に転生したら、現代兵器で軍隊ハーレムを作っちゃいました!?
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Gunota ga Mahou Sekai ni Tensei Shitara, Gendai Heiki de Guntai Harem o Tsukucchaimashita!?

Volume 04

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Translation: re:Translations
Publisher: Yuki

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Chapter 050 – New Equipment

Lute, age 14
Equipment : S&W M10 4 inch (revolver)
: AK-47 (assault rifle)

Snow, age 14
A-minus ranked magician
Equipment : S&W M10 2-inch (revolver)

Chrisse, age 13
Equipment : M700P (sniper rifle)

A few days after the resolution of the incident.
I handed over a bracelet to Chrisse and formally announced to everyone about us becoming a couple.
Unlike my previous world, we don't swear our love in a church, but we gather everyone and tell them of our marriage and exchange wedding vows.
Then we—Snow, Chrisse and I, and my number one disciple Meiya, stayed in the Vlad estate. (I remade Snow's bracelet I had lost and likewise exchanged formal wedding vows.)

"Then what are we going to do now?"

We were in Ojou-sama's—now my wife Chrisse's room, having a tea party while discussing what our plans would be from now on.

Yesterday we talked while we had a tea party in the courtyard, but Mercè-san, Merry-san and the other servants came along and half-teasingly called me [Young Master] [Young Master] again and again, so I became embarrassed and today we're having it in Chrisse's room.

The first thing we brought up in conversation was Snow's magic school attendance, but according to the person herself, [I'm already ranked A-minus, so it'll be alright even if I didn't come back. I've already qualified for graduation without going to class.]

On the school's side, they wanted Snow to graduate from the Fairy Human Continent magic school at all costs for the sake of their prestige. It seemed she was allowed to do this for that reason.

Therefore, I proposed we go to the North Continent to look for clues to find Snow's parents.
Back when we were in the orphanage, she told me she dreamed of finding her parents and living together with them.
However, her reaction was slow.

"Of course I'm happy you'd go there with me… but as we are now it'd be a bit hard if we traveled there."

It seemed as soon as she had joined the magic school, she had immediately examined all sorts of information regarding both the [North Continent] and the [White Wolf Tribe] in order to find her parents.

The North Continent was located where the number [12] was on a clock.
It was the continent where it snowed all year round.

The White Wolf Tribe was a minority living in the heartland of that continent.
But there were also dangerous monsters living in the continent's heartland.
For example, there are the White Dragons and the Giants.

White Dragons, as the name implied, spit out snowstorms from their mouths at their enemies.

"These *Giants* , what are they? Couldn't they be monsters originating from enlarged humans?"

Something like fighting while yelling [Exterminate!]
Snow shook her head.

"Not that, they're more like huge walking stone statues. They form groups and are always on the move. Occasionally, one or two would stray from the group and attack human settlements. They're dangerous monsters that equal Dragons."
"Huge walking stone statues, huh? That'll be difficult to take down with an

AK-47."
[And with a sniper rifle, as well.]

Chrisse voiced her agreement on the mini blackboard.

The White Wolf tribe seemed to live by weaving their way around those dangerous monsters.
Unless we prepare weapons which could stand against those monsters, we'd be annihilated before we could find them .

What's more, we're going to form a [Legion] in the future.
In order to become Level V adventurers, we need to take down one or more Dragons or Giants.

It's still a long way off, but we should plan some countermeasures while we're at it.
There were weapons I postponed development on since they didn't get much use during the vampire incident and also there were things I felt I needed to make. Since I'm going to be fighting Dragons and Giants, I think further weapons development is necessary.

"In that case, why don't we go back to my workshop?"

Hearing what Meiya proposed, everyone there, Snow, Chrisse, and I, looked at each other.
Seeing everyone thought it was a good idea, she continued.

"My workshop has plenty of tools and materials, you can do research and development as you like there. There's also an Adventurer's' Guild there since the Dragon Continent is a famous dungeon paradise of the world! There's also a wide range of job requests there."
"……Well, that *is* an option."

We're already familiar with Meiya's workshop.
As thanks for the Vampire incident, we could also resume Meiya's studies.
At the same time we could also register Snow and Chrisse as adventurers.
We'd level up together, and eventually become level V or level IV.

That way, we could fulfill the conditions for setting up a Legion: one level V and two level IV adventurers.

I suppose I could call it reasonable.

"……. All right. We should return to the Dragon Continent once more like Meiya says, then. I've got lots of things I wanted to build, too. Will you two be okay with this?"
"Where Lute-kun goes, is where I'll go."
[As a wife, I'll stay by Lute-oniichan's side, too.]

With this our next destination was decided.

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Once we decided on a course of action we moved quickly.
A few days later, we bid everyone in the Vlad estate farewell and set off.

Gigi-san already went off on his trip, so it was a little regrettable we couldn't say goodbye to him.

Before we left the Demon Continent, I sent Elle-sensei a letter.

I wrote about my meeting with Snow, my marriage with Chrisse, my release from slavery, and the continuation of my adventures in the Dragon Continent.

About a month later we returned to Meiya's estate.
We went by coach and then by ship.
Arriving at Meiya's estate, the first thing we did was have a bath, a meal, and some sleep—in order to rest from our travel fatigue we spent three days lazing around.

The morning of the fourth day.
I took Meiya and walked into her workshop.

Since I had come to the Dragon Continent I've been wearing Dragon Kungfu , which were traditional Dragon Continent clothes for men.
Snow and Chrisse also wore Dragon Dresses.

"Lute-sama, what kind of handgun shall we be making this time?"
"We're not going to be making handguns or weapons today. I was thinking we're going to put together some personal equipment."

“Not weapons but personal equipment? Will it be armor or something?”

Meiya tilted her head in question.
Even though I said personal equipment other than weapons, it seemed she still didn’t get it.
I showed her the memo I had prepared beforehand and explained.

This was also one way I’m repaying Meiya for the Vampire incident.

“At the minimum, I thought I should make these.”

Combat Uniform
Eye Protection Gear
Helmet
Backpacks
Combat Protectors
Combat Boots
ALICE Clips
Bulletproof Vests

“A, are you going to be making all of these?”
“That’s because they don’t need large-scale work like the M700P. I’ll explain what each one is and what they’re used for in turn.”
“Yes, please treat me well!”

Meiya’s eyes shined like a child being given a toy, then she took out a blank memo pad and a feather pen.
I explained each one in turn and in a way that made it easy for her to understand.

Combat Uniform—Clothes worn during battle. The outside was designed for easy movement and was made from a robust material that breathed easily. For now I planned to make them with cotton. They were equipped with pockets in various places for storing lots of small accessories.

Combat Protector—There were two purposes for it: [Protecting the knees and elbows] and [Mental effect of safety even if you moved around violently].
In times when one needed to squat or lay prone, there was a possibility that

a moment's hesitation over getting a knee injury meant the difference between life and death. However, if one wore a set of protectors, the mental safety/practicality of not getting injured when overdoing things would be important in close combat situations.

Helmet—The purpose of the helmet was to protect a Human's most important organ: The brain. Making a helmet out of magic liquid metal would make lighter and stronger helmets compared to making one out of needlessly thick iron.

Eye Protection Gear—Goggles. There were lots of things which could damage the eyes in combat. Dust carried by the wind, spent cartridges ejected by allies, wood or stone fragments scattered about by bullets. With magic, there would also be fragments scattered by blasts. If these hit one's eye then combat power would decrease. Therefore eye protection was necessary. The problem was what the glass parts were to be made of. Of course we couldn't use this world's glass. It wasn't strong enough. It would conversely increase the risk of damage.

Backpack—During the vampire incident, the clay to stop one of the functions of the magic prevention collar and the softball-sized smoke grenade was put in a bag. However, since there was no time I made one which was barely suitable for the job. This time I'll be making one foremergencies in advance.
The total weight of the equipment [shouldn't exceed a third of a soldier's body weight].
Fighting strength of a tired soldier drops significantly. I thought rather than giving soldiers all they could bear to carry, it was better to set a standard.
I also thought I shouldn't stuff 20 kg of baggage into one large bag, but instead disperse the weight using smaller bags linked together to make it easier to carry. Pack together three 5 kg bags and hang two 2.5 kg bags from each of them.

Combat Boots—During the vampire incident I used ones with soles made of soft materials to reduce the sound of footsteps, but the combat boots I'll make this time are going to be for field use. However, there's no rubber in this alternate world. I've never seen any. Therefore I'll be attaching metal rivets to the shoe soles.

Metal rivets are useful as an anti-skid mechanism but the downside

was the temperature of the ground would be easily transmitted to the foot, in cold regions heat easily flows out, causing frostbite. Tentatively, I'll put a sheet of monster skin between two plates made from magic liquid metal. This way cold and heat won't go through and one could safely step on metal pieces. The tip of the toes would also be fitted with metal to make the boots safe.

ALICE Clip—[Sliding metal clips] attached to pistol belts. The advantage of ALICE clips was that one can attach them wherever one likes along the belt. The mechanism wasn't complicated, either.
However, if used this way the trousers would slide down from the weight of the equipment, so it should be supported using suspenders.
The combination of a [Pistol Belt] and [Suspenders] was called a [Belt Kit].

Bulletproof Vest—Protects against piercing by soft point bullets favored by police or VIP guards. However, there was no chance of us getting hit by a bullet in this world. Bulletproof vests can't defend against stabs from arrows or the like. For that reason, I planned to make leather vests using this world's materials as a substitution. Ideally I'd like something which could defend against sword, arrow, and spear attacks.

"—Well I suppose I'm thinking about making some things like these. Weapons are important, but armor and a way to increase the number of magazines and the small stuff we carry are necessary to raise the odds of us surviving from now on."
"As expected from Lute-sama! I'll be learning from this!"

Meiya's expression brightened as she gleefully jotted everything down on the memo pad.
While I waited for her to finish writing things down I called out.

"Well then, I'll immediately begin making the [Combat Uniforms]."
"Yes! Your number one disciple shall help you out!"

"I'm sorry to disturb your work."

When Meiya had just gotten psyched, one of the estate's maids came along.

"A letter addressed to the Meiya estate just arrived."

“Good grief, who is it!? Barging in when I was just going to have some sweet time with Lute-sama!”

Meiya puffed her cheeks in anger and checked the sender of the letter.

—sigh
“Meiya?”

She faintly sighed.

“Leave it in my room.”
“Understood.”
“You don’t need to read it first?”

“It doesn’t matter! It’s a letter from my childhood friend. Anyway, my time together with Lute-sama is more important than anything!”

She returned to her cheerful self as if ignoring her previous sigh.
Meiya cut the chatter about the letter with a smile.

Chapter 051 – New Life

I've been working on [Combat Protectors] with Meiya all morning.
I also spent some time accompanying her as she practiced assembling handguns.

She has been earnestly investing her time after discovering the method for producing iron plates with my help. In order for her to master it, she has been learning through the usage of her body by touching, licking, sniffing the odor, punching it to feel the hardness, nibbling it, and even pressing it to her cheeks to feel the harsh coldness of it.

In addition, she would draw it onto several sheets of paper and carry those with her to sleep, like a lover.

…… I think there was a scene like this in Hu○ter×H○nter .
Although she has made an effort, I feel that she is still a little bit short on receiving a passing mark.

I'm indebted to her, so I'll cooperate with her as much as possible.

However, because this amount of effort wasn't enough even for the genius Meiya, conveying a mental image to magic liquid metal is probably considerably difficult for the people of this world. It seems that this would be difficult to teach to normal magicians.

After lunch, I took Snow and Chrisse to the Adventurers' Guild branch in the Dragon Continent.

The Adventurers' guild had mostly the same appearance as the one in the Fairy Human Continent.
It was a three story building the size of a gymnasium, Adventurer-like people continuously came and went from it.

"So this is the Adventurers' Guild."
[It's big.]

As this is Snow and Chrisse's first time, they became oddly emotional.

I thought it was curious too when I visited for the first time, so I understand their feelings.

I took the girls inside the building.
The system here was also the same, I took a ticket from the information lady and at the same time took a set of registration forms for Snow and Chrisse.
I also took the documents required for reissuing tags.

While we waited, we filled in the necessary information.
We finished writing right when our ticket number was called.

"Uooh!?"
"…… what is wrong?"

After confirming who was sitting at the private counter, I let out a shriek.
The receptionist who took care of my beginner registration four years ago in the Fairy Human Continent was there.

Even after four years, she still looked like she was in her early 20's, and as befits one of the Demon Race, she had sheep-like horns protruding out of her head and a pair of bat-like wings on her back. She looks as good in her Adventurers' Guild clothes as ever.

It seemed like she didn't recognize me.
That's a given.
Compared to four years ago, I have grown taller and also my face has changed.

"Do you remember me? I'm Lute, you helped me with registering as an adventurer four years ago in Grey, a Port Town of the Fairy Human Continent. The one who hunted 31 Garugaru."
"-!? Lute-san! So you are still alive!"

The moment I said [31 garugaru], the receptionist remembered immediately and showed a surprised face.
As I thought, I was thought to be dead over there.

I once again told how I ended up being deceived by a fake adventurer

and was sold to the Demon Continent.
And now I'm safe, released from slavery, and live freely.

Because she was a demon, she was relocated from the Fairy Human continent into the Demon continent.
She told me that she was worried when didn't return.
I apologized for making her worried because of my mistake.

"So this time I am requesting for the reissue of my adventurer's registration, and newly register my companions here."
"Certainly. I'll be taking these documents, then."

She took the documents and checked them.

"Adventurer re-registration for Lute-sama, and a new registration for the other 2… right?"

She stared at the documents.

"….errr sorry, it's written here that you 3 have all circled the married status?"
"That is not a mistake, I'm married to both of them."
"Yes! I'm Lute-kun's wife."
[I'm also Lute-oniichan's wife.]

Snow and Chrisse showed their left hands.
They also shake the bracelet, made by me with magic liquid metal, on their arms.
Of course I showed mine too.

Last time Snow and I were just engaged, so I did not circle the married status.

But now, I have already performed the wedding ceremony with Snow and Chrisse.

Even though it is called a wedding ceremony, we did not exchange vows of love in a church. We just publicly informed people that we are married. Together with Snow the three of us held the wedding ceremony in peace.

Madam did give me the money for the bracelets, but still, for marriage bracelets, I wanted to buy them myself.

Therefore I requested to buy Meiya's magic liquid metal with the money I had been saving.
To create bracelets for Chrisse and myself.

Compared to Snow's, the design is thinner and more delicate (reminiscent of the lost bracelet which I had with Snow).

To Snow & Chris, they were satisfied with these sort of marriage bracelets. However, I'm not convinced.
I decided to buy suitable marriage bracelets with a little more charm in the future, and give one to each of them.

When the receptionist *onee-san* looked at our wedding bracelets, she was more surprised than the time I had hunted 31 *GaruGaru.*

"N, no way! You're only 14 and 13 years-old! Sheesh, kids these days! *sigh*… that must be nice~, although this *onee-san* has a job like this, I have never had any fated meetings at all. There's no way we can lay our hands on adventurers—and office romance is also strictly forbidden. Just where do they think we're supposed to find love. My parents are also annoy, always saying things like marriage this and grandchildrens that……"
"I.. I see…"

The *onee-san* suddenly complained with a grumble.
Although I thought that she is the type who would be popular, it seems like I was wrong

However, as expected, she did not derail forever, and she expressed her business smile afterwards.

"Then, one silver coin for the initial registration, and five pieces of silver coins if you want to have a reissue, Do you have any problems with this so far? Originally, Reissuing requires an interview, but because Lute-sama seems to be the victim here, I'll just end it with a stern warning. However, if a similar incident happens again, there's the possibility that

you will be judged as incompetent and won't receieve another reissue, so please be careful."
"I, I understand, I will be careful, no problem."

The receptionist confirmed the documents when she heard my consent.

Chrisse and my documents were scanned.
Next, she paused during Snow's document check.

"Magician A- Class !?"

She once again revealed a surprised voice, following this, other adventurers began to rustle towards us.

"A- rank magician, isn't that the realm which only a handful of geniuses can enter?"
"Furthermore, at such a young age … how awesome."
"She must have a lot of magic power…"

"According to the things I heard just now, it seems like that guy is the 2 girls' husband."
"Bigamy!? Furthermore, at such a young age … awesome."
"He must have a lot of vigor."

I heard the whispered talks of the adventurers

Regrettably! I'm still a virgin!

Indeed, in my previous workplace – my wife's Vlad house – if we were to have our first time there it would certainly be awkward, also there's also no way we can do it while traveling.

In Meiya's Mansion, the girls each have their own rooms.
Having our first time at an acquaintance's house, would certainly also be awkward even for them.
We *do* sleep together in the same futon at night, but….

We kiss and hug each other, but we haven't gone further than that.

The receptionist timidly asks Snow.

“I’m sorry to ask you this, but do you have any magician school certificates which can prove your class?”
“The school in the northern region of the Fairy Human continent. I do not have a diploma because I have yet to graduate from it. I’m treated like a scholarship student there so my graduation is for certain.”

The receptionist had a difficult expression after hearing Snow’s explanation

“….I apologize once again. If you have no certificate, then I cannot give you any special privileges as a Class A, Will you be alright with this?”
“By *privilege* you mean…?”

She answered my question.

“You can begin adventuring as a level III adventurer. Also, there is a special allowance granted by the Adventurers’ Guild for purchasing equipment.”
“If it’s only that, then there’s no problem without it right?”
“Yes, no problem.”
“Well then, I shall inquire from here to the magician school in order to confirm whether Snow is an A- Class or not. Though it will take time, if your level is still less than level III when I receive proper validation, please inform me to raise your level when that time comes.”

I consented to Snow’s verification and abandoned the special privilege.
Leaving that aside, I requested for a quest from her.
The receptionist understood my intentions due to a long acquaintanceship and she showed the duties of a level I adventurer, which is about demon extermination, rather than miscellaneous duties.

This level I quest is a demon extermination in the outskirts of the town.
The target demon is named *Bakupaku* .
The clear condition is to hunt at least one *Bakupaku*

Bakupaku is a four-legged beast

The official documents stated that they were to gather the horns on their heads.
The horns seem to be an ingredient of a beneficial magic medicine.

I received the tag on which the contents of the quest was written.
We received the quest and left the *Adventurers' Guild* .

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First, we went back to Meiya's mansion to prepare our equipment.

The AK47 was for me.
A rucksack that holds a water bottle, the container to put the horns, 2 spare magazines, and 5 sets of 6 『7.62x51mm NATO rounds』 which wereChrisse's reserve rounds.
I stocked 2 magazines within the magazine pouch located to the left and right of my waist.
I also equipped a knife behind my waist.

For Snow, the 『S&W M10 2-inch』 revolver, with two sets (6 rounds each) of speedloaders in both her pockets. Honestly, this was just for her self-protection. The chance for her to use it, is probably low.
She also equiped a knife to her waist.

Chrisse placed her M700P onto her shoulder using a sling. She tentatively placed her cartridges in a pouch located to the left and right of her waist. However, she was different from us, 6 pieces per pouch with 2 rows of one fixed type. She had a total of 24. In addition, I also gave Chrisse a knife for safety purposes.

We borrowed two horned horses from Meiya and set out from town.
The wide plain outside the town continued as far as the eye could see.

Snow was riding one of the horned horses, while I had Chrisse sit in front of me riding the other horned horse.
Snow learned how to ride horned horses at magic school, while I learned from Gigi-san.

Chrisse searched with her inherently sharp eyesight for the Bakupakus that would become our prey.

There were monsters that seemed to be them, roughly 600 metres in front of us. There were three of them.

We got down from the horned horses, and approached the prey while downwind from them.

"You haven't put a cartridge in yet, Chrisse?"
『I will do so once we are a little closer.』

She took out just one bullet from her pouch, and placed it in her pocket.

Once I was about 200 metres away, I could see them as well.

They were about a size bigger than the pigs and boars in my old world.
They numbered three.
They looked like Malaysian Tapirs with horns and fangs.
Their appearance was a bit fantasy-esque, but because of that, seeing them eat their prey was odd.
They were muscular enough that even I could tell from a distance, and seemed like they would be annoying to take down by sword alone.

However, we have the AK47 and the M700.
We're needlessly overspec'd for this.

"Snow, Chrisse. Are there any people here besides us?"
"…Mn, it's clear."
『I did not catch sight of anyone either. There is nobody here but us.』

So that I wouldn't make the same mistake as the one I made roughly 4 years ago, I made sure that there wasn't anybody in the area but us.
The area around us was a needlessly large grass plain.
There wasn't anywhere a person could hide, but just in case, I had the magician Snow, and the sharp-sighted Chrisse to check.

After this, as decided, we wouldn't be using Body Strengthening.
It'd be annoying to have our magic detected and be forced to escape after all.

I released the safety.
Switched it to semi-automatic.
I pulled the cocking handle, and moved a bullet into the chamber.

Chrisse also pushed one into her magazine.

As we approached the bakupaku by foot, as we expected, they noticed us and became intimidated.
Despite seeing an unfamiliar cylindrical object, probably because of a young age, they came charging towards us without fear.
I shot at them from a standing shooting position.

Three gunshots.

Chrisse cleanly shoots through the middle one's forehead.

I also fired through one of their foreheads.
Another round went through the remaining one's foot to deprive it of it's movement.

Snow gave the decisive blow by magic
The reason for purposely doing this kind double effort is to prevent the prey from escaping if magic is sensed.

I picked up the empty cartridges that have fallen, and placed them into the sack,

"Snow, burn the corpses after cutting off the horns."
"Roger."

As she answered lightly. the horn of the Bakupaku were cut, and the corpses were burned.
I placed the procured horns into the small sack

We returned to the place where we had dismounted from the horned horses
The horned horses didn't seem to be surprised by the gunshots as they did not run away. They were eating grass carefreely.

Afterwards, we traveled to the meadows before the day ended, and got

our spoils due to Chrisse's eyesight.
We were able to secure 30 horns in total
One set of ten per person.

We did not go straight to the guild and convert our goods for money, instead, we returned back to the house and placed our AK47 and M700P there first. A precaution to the last.

Of course, we ventured to the guild to update the records of the newest members.
Snow & Chrisse improved their rank to adventurer level II. Mine remained the same.
I was able to begin a favorable new life this way

Chapter 052 – A setback in our New Life

"I think it's about time: we really need to get self-sufficient."

It's the third day since we advanced to Level II Adventurers.
Snow suddenly said that at the breakfast table.

According to her, considering Meiya *is my* disciple, it's strange to have everyone rely 100% on Meiya alone.
We're already 14, and next year we'll be adults at 15.
What's more, though we're just beginners, we've started working in the adventurer trade.

That's why it's about time that we stop depending on Meiya and begin paying for our necessities with our own income——or so Snow was saying.

The lord of the estate, Meiya, objected to Snow's suggestion.

"P-, Please wait! What are you saying!? I am Lute-sama's number one student! The belongings of the student are the belongings of the master! That much is common sense! So there is not the least reason for any of you to feel reserved."

"…Um, nah. Meiya, this time Snow is right."
『I think so as well.』
"Lute-sama!? Even Chrisse-san!?"

I used hand gestures to calm the agitated Meiya.

"On top of providing the essential magic liquid metal, you're even providing a place where we can perform research. If you provided our food and shelter as well, that really would be taking advantage of you."

Having finally noticed after Snow pointed this out, I'm finding this situation too unhealthy.
Certainly, from Meiya's point of view as a rich person, providing for our lifestyle is just a drop in the bucket. Indeed, it's probably a joy for her to to

live under the same roof as a an expert in her field of interest, and to be able to ask him questions whenever she wants and receive lessons every day.

But for us, it's something that'll turn us into useless bums.
It's that saying. 『A hedge between friends keeps friends good friends』.

We've lately been accepting adventurer quests, particularly at Level II, so we have a decent amount of money anyway.
I'd also like to contribute to the orphanage.

Taking Meiya's support while donating to Elle-Sensei's orphanage——that'd just be putting the cart before the horse.

"It's just as Snow says. Let's leave Meiya's estate and become independent."
"NOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!"

Snow and Chrisse accepted my decision.
Meiya alone let out a shriek, and began throwing a tantrum like a child rolling around the floor of a toy store.

"I don't want that! I don't want that! What's wrong with living happily with everybody else?! Even though I'm Lute-sama's number one disciple! I don't want to be apart from everyone!"

…It's pretty tough seeing a fully-grown adult act like a spoilt child.
I kindly persuaded the complaining Meiya like a gentleman.
This is what I said.

I won't forget the support that Meiya's lentus so far, and I'll come here every day to research and develop new weapons. To do that, I intend on leasing a house close to Meiya's place.
That's why Meiya can come over to play whenever she likes. We'll welcome her, of course, and she can stay over too.

Meiya wouldn't go against her master's decision, and once she heard she could come play at any time, and might stay over, she folded.
Only, as a compromise, she wanted permission to go to the estate agent with us. Apparently she plans on finding us a place close-by, no matter the

cost.

“Alright, I got it. Then today we’ll be taking a break from research and questing, and all go look for a house instead.”
“Got it~”
『It’ll be nice if we find a good one, won’t it?』
“Please leave it to me, Lute-sama! I know a lot of people, so they’ll be able to accommodate you in various ways, and even though it mightn’t seem that way, bargaining is my strong point!”
“When it comes time to haggle, then, I’ll be counting on you, Meiya.”
“Understood! By all means, leave it to me! Lute-sama’s number one disciple, this unworthy Meiya Dragoon, will gladly stake her life on this!”

I reflexively *tsukkomi’d* , 『No, there’s no need to stake your life』 .

And thus, today’s plans were to go real estate shopping.

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We weren’t heading out on a quest for the Guild, so we weren’t wearing the usual rough-looking outfits.
The girls were all wearing the traditional clothing of Dragon Continent .

Snow was sporting a ponytail and a Dragon Dress. It would look unstylish to have her 『S&W M10 2”』 in a chest holster, so she had it strapped to her leg. Seeing the revolver peeking out from her legwas oddly erotic.

Chrisse was wearing a Dragon Dress and had her hair done up in Chinese double buns. Because she was slightly built, she really looked like a doll, so it suited her.

Meiya was wearing a Dragon Dress as well, and, with a fan in hand, she walked ahead to show us the way.

I also got from her a traditional male outfit of the Dragon Continent, the Dragon Kung Fu outfit. I do have my gun belt wrapped around me with the 『S&W M10 4”』 for self-defence. But the gun belt doesn’t go well with the Dragon Kung Fu outfit.

With my right hand in Snow's, and my left hand in Chrisse's, I left the estate with a 'flower in each hand'.
A carriage Meiya had prepared was stopped before the front gate of the estate.

We boarded the horse carriage.
Apparently the driver had already been told the destination, and the moment everybody was on board,the young coachman began whipping the horned horses on his own.

It took about thirty minutes by carriage.
The place that Meiya brought us to was an estate agent——called a 『Building Agency』 in this world.

The store was a two-story building built from a marble-like stone, and gave the same atmosphere as the shop where I went with Chrisse to buy Karen's present.
When we entered the shop, a middle aged man who seemed to be the shopkeeper ran over with a smile.
Apparently she'd told him in advance that we'd be coming.

"Welcome, Meiya-sama. Thank you truly for making use of our shop today."

The man smiled from the bottom of his heart, and welcomed Meiya.

"To be honoured with the visit of a personage like yourself representing the Dragonoid Race has moved me. It doesn't have to be right now, but would it be all right if perhaps you wrote a few words about us?"
[autograph]
"Yes, that'll be fine."
"Thank you very much!"

I had heard that Meiya was a well-known genius artificer of magic tools, but I had had no idea that she was this popular. The attitude that they took is like how you'd behave if a famous movie star visited.
Even besides the middle-aged man, the other staff members were gazing at Meiya with sparkling eyes as well.

Meiya seemed used to it: she acted like it was nothing, and was

relaxed as ever.

"Today, my teacher, Lute-sama, has come to look at the properties. Could you show me the properties close to my estate?"
"Y-, Your teacher, Meiya-sama?"

The man's voice went a little shrill at Meiya's introduction.
He seemed shocked that the genius Meiya had a teacher, and that said teacher was clearly younger than she was.

But he was a professional.
A smile immediately returned to his face as he greeted me.

"Well then, I will select a number of houses close to Meiya-sama's estate, as well as a few other recommendations, so please sit by that counter and wait."

We continued inside and sat at a counter like one you'd find in a bar. We sat in order. Meiya, me, Chrisse and Snow.

Before long, a man brought over to us papers with the houses' details.

"These are the properties close to Meiya-sama's house. And these are the properties that our shop recommends."

I accepted the papers and immediately took a look but… so expensive! Ridiculously expensive!
The most expensive one was 50 gold coins, roughly 5,000,000 Yen, a month!
Even the cheapest one was 1 gold coin and 6 silver coins, roughly 160,000 Yen, a month!

"My, they're unexpectedly cheap, aren't they?"
"However, not one of them is low in quality. Our store is proud to say this."

Nonono, they're expensive, aren't they? Way too expensive, right?
I'm just guessing, but this place isn't a store for commoners like us, but is a Building Agency targeting people from the upper class.

I forgot to take Meiya's economic situation and sense of money into account.
A cheaper place that's big enough for three people is fine.
There's absolutely no need for a pool in the garden, a water fountain, or a banquet hall so big that you could probably hold a dance party in there.

(Beg Meiya's pardon, but let's endure the shame and leave this shop. Then we'll go to a place that's more——suited to our status.)

Just as I was about to cut off the man in front of me in order to leave the shop… Meiya arbitrarily advanced the conversation.

"This one is fine. It is right by my estate, after all, and the house is fairly large too. I like it. Let us have this 10 gold a month property for 1 silver."
"……Eh-?"
"Did you not hear me, perhaps? I asked you to loan out this 10 gold per month property for 1 silver per month."
"E-, Even if it's you, Meiya-sama, that much is…"

Hearing the sudden demand, the man whose eyes had been sparkling thus far was now troubled and evading answering.
Well, of course.
No matter how famous Meiya might be on the Dragon Dude Continent, and even if she's the subject of adoration for the people of the Dragonoid Race, telling him to lend out a 10 gold property (roughly ¥1,000,000) for 1 silver (¥10,000) is obviously unreasonable.
But she fell into a bad mood because things didn't go as she wanted.

"Could you perhaps speak my name once more?"
"Y-, You are Meiya-sama… B-, But! Even if you are Meiya-sama, there are things that one can do, and things that one can't, and,…"

In terror, the man fervently wiped the sweat flowing from his brow.
However, Meiya's attitude grew even more unyielding.

"My name is Meiya Dragoon. Moreover, the one that we will have living in that house is my master, the world's strongest magic tool artificing genius, Lute-sama, you know? Just having Lute-sama live there is a great honour. That property would become holy ground. Could you perhaps be

intending to take rent from a god, for living in a temple? On the contrary, just having them live there is an honour, so do you not feel that you should be showing your gratitude instead?"

"Or could it be,"——she said, as her eyes glinted coldly,

"That you people wish to lose your place here on this continent?"

With this one line, all the staff of the Building Agency grew paler than ghosts, and began to tremble.
Meiya's words were not an empty threat.
Her name was the most famous after that of His Majesty the Emperor, and if you incurred the wrath of Meiya, who was favoured even by the next Emperor, you really would lose your place on this Dragon Human Continent.

The man in charge of the counter started pleading, with the complexion of a sick person.

"P-, Please spare us from that! My youngest daughter is only 10! If we are driven out from here, just where would we go!?"
"I neither know nor care. Just go wherever you please. If you are unhappy with this, is there not something you should be saying? Or could it be that you intend on disgracing me further?"
"U-, Understood. This 10 gold property will be rented out for 1 silver per month…"
"Hah? Are you perhaps speaking in jest?"
"Uu-, please live in this 10 gold property. We will pay you 10 gold a month to do so, so please…"

"How was I, Lute-sama!? I have tried my best for your sake, Lute-sama! Of course, this much is a matter of course for your number one disciple! And so, no thanks are required. H-, However, if by chance you wish to thank me anyway, then a bracelet of about *this* size for my left arm as well might be nice~ or so I was thinking. Wai-… Fue?"

Her face red, Meiya turned to look at all of us, and came to know reality.

I, the person that she'd thought would be rejoicing——had instead

backed away from her.
Snow and Chrisse had backed away as well.
Chrisse even had teary eyes.

"U-, Um, Lute-sama, Snow-san, Chrisse-san…?"
"As anyone would expect, you'd back away… 'Bargaining is my strong point,' you said… That wasn't bargaining but threatening, right?"
"I-, I wanted Lute-sama to be happy!"
"I'm sorry. I'm a little scared as well."
『That was too terrifying.』

Meiya was knocked out by Snow and Chrisse's words.

I turned back to face the man again.

"Sorry. Please ignore what happened just now. I really am sorry for causing you trouble. Our budget is about 5 silvers a month, so just a place large enough for the three of us to live in is fine. This shop wouldn't have such a place though, would it?"

"I-, Is that fine!? For Meiya-sama's esteemed master to live in such a simple place is…!"
"No, really. Just forget what happened just now, please. If you don't have such a property, then we will head to another store. Even in that case, we won't cause trouble for you later, so please rest assured."

"T-, Thank you very much! W-, Well how about this place?"

I dropped my gaze to the paper that the man hurriedly produced. A two-story 3LDK. Just barely in the high-class residential area, it's a relatively snug house. But the price is 1 gold a month (roughly 100,000 Yen). That's over budget.

"It's a little expensive, isn't it?"
"The truth is, the person who lived in this house previously was an elderly person, and their will stated that they wished for the tree to remain. The location is good, but because the tree has grown quite splendidly the place doesn't get much sun, and so because everyone wants to cut the tree down people avoid this house. For us as well, it would be a shame for the place to be left alone for too long, and so if you would be willing to live here, we

would be willing to halve the price to five silvers a month. How about it?"

If we can reduce a one gold piece rent to five silvers just by leaving a tree, then it really is quite a bargain.
What's more, although it is on the border, it's still part of the high-class residential area. The security is good there. And it's close to Meiya's estate as well. It's almost our ideal place.

I checked my wives' expressions just in case, but they too nodded in approval.

"Well then, I'll go with this one please."
"Thank you very much! Thank you very much! Thank you very much!"
"We didn't really do anything worthy of being thanked so much. Ah, we want to buy furniture and stuff as well, so would it be possible to see the house today?"
"That is no problem at all. Hey you! Can you unlock the doors in advance, please? Ah, but because we need to clean it up and check for anything that needs repairing, as well as needing to ensure some of the finer paperwork is done, could you please hold off on moving in until a week from now?"
"Sure. There's no problem with that."

"Well then, after you have a look at the property, we will be signing the formal contract. If you are displeased with it, please by all means say so."
"I understand."

"Well then, I will now guide you there. Will you be travelling by carriage today?"
"Yes, by hers——Meiya's."
"In that case, I will let your attendant know the address. Our agent has already departed from here, and will have unlocked the house."
"Well then, I'll be coming back to sign the contract. Well then, you two, shall we go? Meiya too… Wai-, are you still discouraged?"
"I'm just no good at all…."

Meiya was curled up in the corner of the room, hugging her knees.

"Ahh, Meiya, ummm, although your methods were pretty bad, I was happy that you felt that way. Really. But I guess I hope that you won't use

threats to negotiate in the future. I think of you as my important disciple even without you doing things like that."

"——Lute-sama!"

Just by hearing her name called, her eyes sparkled more brightly than the sun, and she easily made her comeback.
Uwah, so simple.

And so, the four of us got into the carriage and went to have a look at the house.
The employee had already unlocked the doors, and was waiting there for us.
The inside of the house was more beautiful than expected, and the garden was large too. The problem tree was certainly tall, but I wouldn't say that it was tall enough to bother.

After confirming that there were no problems, we headed back to the Building Agency to sign the contract.
Because they needed three months of rent as an advance payment and deposit, I had Snow and Chrisse take out 15 coins from their purses. While that was happening, I finished signing the contract.

And like that, I got the new home that Snow, Chrisse and I would be living in.

Chapter 053 – The Wash Toilet

Snow and Chrisse already got raburabu, now its Meiya's turn! – Yuushin

Snow, Chrisse, and I rented a single house for us to live in.
It took about a week for the inspections, repairs, and legal procedures to be completed before we received the key.
In the meantime, as we were so busy, we decided not to take on any quests.

If we took on quests while we're limited on time, we might make mistakes due to being restless over our new lives. So, we decided not to do anything dangerous until we finished moving and have settled in.

Then there were the preparations for the move.
Snow and Chrisse were busy choosing furniture and wares for the house, as well as preparing for the party to celebrate our move and new life.

Chrisse was planning on bringing a variety of books from her parents' home. In particular her most cherished book, the fitst book she had ever bought; It was a picture book about heroes and demons, she carefully packed it.

The only guest coming is Meiya.
We have only a few acquaintances here in the Dragon Continent.
I tentatively invited the Adventurers' Guild onee-san receptionist, but…

"This is one of those 'Sharing of Happiness' things, riiiiiight. AAAaaAAAaAH! I WanT tO gEt MaRrIeD TOoooOOoo!"

She roared at me.
I apologized to her and hurriedly left the Adventurers' Guild.

Then Meiya and I stopped our studies and R&D, and devoted ourselves to making wares for our new life.

For the first time in this world, I have my own house.
There is something I absolutely want to make for that.

The thing I wanted to make was…. a toilet with a bidet—a Wash Toilet.

It's indecent to say, but in this world, the ones they mainly used are basically holes in the ground. Large leaves were sold in bunches as toilet paper.
The texture was like, seriously, WTF.

The Meiya residence, the Vlad house, and the orphanage all had holes-in-the-ground…. I can't stand them no matter what.

Each time I finished doing a #2 and wiped my butt with leaves, I could feel my SAN points being whittled down.

The toilet back in my previous life was a wash toilet.
Because the one in my parents' home was one of those, I asked the installers to have one installed the day I moved out.
The feeling, and a sense of cleanness!! That forbidden fruit which you can't forget once you've tasted it!

So I'm making it!
A toilet equipped with a bidet!

I've already ordered the toilet's body.
One made of white porcelain.

Toilets are almost always made of porcelain, even in my previous world.
I read somewhere that if some other material was used, *it* wouldn't go down as well.

Next is the wash toilet's structure.
In Thailand, in the previous world, it seems they used a hose to directly wash the butt.
But as expected, I prefer Japanese-style wash toilets.

I'm making the nozzle to be able to positioned as I liked, through the use of a rotating lever.
The structure itself is not so complicated.

For materials I used magic liquid metal.

The problems are how to warm the water, and how to make it spray from the nozzle.

The wash toilets in my previous world have two ways to warm up the water.
One's that keep the water temperature constant; the [Heat Preserving Type].
One's that instantly heat up the portion of the water that is about to be used; the [Instant Heating Type].

The way to make the water spray out is simple, through using pistons with a motor, water can be pushed into a pipe.

If this was a world without magic, it would probably be a pipe dream to make a wash toilet without electricity or motors . However, this world has magic; it has magic stones!

These two problems are solved usingmagic stones.
With magic stones that manipulate water and fire, these problems are not hard to solve.

I promptly ran towards the magic stone shop in town.
The inside of the store was decorated with showcases, like in a jewelry store.
The middle aged man who manages the store easily noticed me and started a conversation.

"Welcome to our store, Lute-sama."
"Good day to you—wait, how did you know my name!?"
"Because you are the teacher of the magic stone princess Meiya-sama. It is common sense for us magic stone shop owners in this town to watch her every move."

The small male shop clerk put on an amicable smile.
That's Meiya for you, having so much influence due to being a celebrity.

(*But it's convenient. This way I won't get sold inferior goods or get lied to about the prices.*)

If he did that and Meiya found out, he will lose his place in the Dragon Continent.
The risk is too high.

I promptly consulted with the small, kind-looking shop clerk, and had him show me some appropriate magic stones.

"I'm looking for water magic stones and fire magic stones."
"I see, water magic store to equip on armor, and fire magic stone for a sword, right."
"No, that's not it. I wanted water magic stones to control water to wash my butt. The fire magic stone is used to warm that water up. "
"Huh?"
"No, well, I wanted to build some equipment to wash my butt after I'm done using the toilet with water and fire magic stones. I wonder what magic stones are suitable for that?"
"…… Are you making fun of me?"

The expression on the shop clerk's face changed.
His earlier, kindly smile totally changed into a stern look, laying bare his hostility.

"You may be an amazing guy, being Meiya-sama's teacher. You probably could send me to despair without so much as moving a finger. But let me tell you this: I have pride in my work of managing this magic stone shop! And you say things like washing your butt!? Please stop making a fool out of me! Get out! There are no magic stones here for you!"
"P, please wait! Washing your butt with water really does feel good! Even more so when it's warm water! It's a revolution that will change the world! Please believe me!"
"Hey! Get out! Didn't I tell you already, I'm not selling you any magic stones!"
"It's the truth! The butt! The butt really feels good! "

But the male shop clerk did not listen to my pleas, and drove me out of his store.
What I saw reflected in his eyes in the end was genuine anger.

It's not his fault, though.

Washing your butt with warm water after using the toilet—the idea of a wash toilet itself was way too avant-garde for this world to understand.
If he experienced it firsthand I'm sure he will shed tears of happiness at how wonderful it is!

I hardened my heart and swore that I will definitely finish the wash toilet.
Then I will have him use it and feel its magnificence!

I went to another magic stone shop and bought a gold coin's worth of fire and water magic stones while keeping silent about their use.

I returned to Meiya's residence with the magic stones in hand.
I set to work making the wash toilet, borrowing the strength of the magic stone professional Meiya.
I thought it might be fine if it's her, but since there was a possibility she'd become enraged like that magic stone shop owner, I was deliberately cryptic about its use, and explained that I want to shoot warm water through a pipe.

Happy being depended upon with magic stone work, she gleefully cooperated.

"You want to draw magic runes around the water tank so the water would shoot through the pipe, right."
"Then I want to heat that water with magic stone so it becomes warm. Can you draw the warming magic runes on the pipes?"
"Of course! With magic stones this size bringing the water to boil would only take a moment."
"Er, you don't have to make it boil. Just make it as warm as bathwater if you can."

"Is that so… then we need to put in a limiter as well, for safety."
"Can you do that?"
"Yes, of course I can."
"Great, then add the limiter as well."

Meiya started working according to my instructions.

For several days, Meiya and I devoted ourselves to making the wash

toilet.
We made the pipe so it could be brought in and out by hand through the use of a handle to adjust its positioning.
The regulation of the water current is made possible by magic runes carved on the exterior of the tank.
Heating runes were drawn on the unexposed portion of pipe to make the water warm.
It became, in terms of the wash toilets of my previous world, an [Instant Heating Type] toilet that heats up only the portion of water that was going to be used.

The water and fire magic stones were installed together with the handle on the wall.
When both magic stones are touched, and the startup spell is chanted, the water flows, gets warmed up and shoots out.

If you don't want warm water, you simply touch only the water magic stone and chant the spell.

When the magic power runs out, the stones can be replaced or charged again and reused.
It was quite eco friendly.

The cost for me and Meiya to make the alternate-world-style wash toilet this time is… Magic stones × 2, nozzle, western-style toilet bowl, materials for other necessary gimmicks—all in all, we spent 3 gold coins (about 300 000 yen).

The house we leased cost 5 silver coins per month.
It was six months' rent.

As for the wash toilets in my previous world, there were ones that cost 300 000 yen if it was one of the more expensive ones.
Because I was making it in another world, that price isn't too much.

I told my two wives about the cost and what I used it for, and….

"Lute-kun was like that with the handguns as well, but you sure are passionate about strange things."
[Oniichan, you shouldn't be too wasteful with money, okay?]

I kind of got treated like a kid without common sense.
It's fine. Once they experience the wash toilet, they'll definitely come to realise its splendour!

Wash toilets are the true forbidden fruit!
A devilish tool that will always hold you captive after you experience it!
I can say with confidence that no matter the world, there is no person that can turn their back to its magnificence!
Feel free to experience the dreadfulness of the ultimate weapon developed in Galapagos Japan.

I pictured the writhing forms of the girls taken captive by the wash toilet, and silently smiled to myself.

And like that, the newly rented house was fully furnished with the Lute-model wash toilet.

Below is a side story. The reactions during the use of the wash toilet.

In Snow's case.
During—— 『!? Fugyah! W-, What is thiss?! Funyah?!』

After—— 『Thish ish amajing~ It feels so good, my knees have gotten weak!.』

In Chrisse's case.

During—— 『!? -u, nn-u-! Nn-…!』

After—— 『T-, This is a torture device created from the knowledge of the Demon King! I-, I will definitely never use it again!』

In Meiya's case.

During—— 『L-, LUTE-SAMAAAA! LU-, LUTE-SAMAA!! LUTE-SAMAAAAAAAAH!!!』

After—— 『Uhuhuhu, as expected of the greatest genius of this age, Lute-sama. To think he would evolve toilets to this level…-』

In the case of the magic stone salesman.

During—— 『UHO! Uhohohoho, HOOOH!』

After—— 『I've been opened to a new world…-』

Chrisse was angry at me with teary eyes.
Apparently it didn't go well with her.
It was popular with everyone else, though.

Chapter 054 – First Night x First Night

Then a week passed.
We finally received the key to the house from the Building Agency.

We brought in our personal effects from the Meiya Residence by wagon.

The furniture Snow and Chrisse bought had also been brought in, so we placed them in the spots we had decided beforehand.
Because all three of us used body strengthening, even Chrisse could carry a sofa all by herself.
There was nothing more convenient than that, to make the work go faster.

By mid-morning we finished tidying up our belongings and had a light lunch.
We used up the entire afternoon making preparations for the party.

The one in charge of the main dishes was Snow.
Chrisse had no experience in cooking, so she prepared dessert with me.
We planned on making [Pudding] and the [Mille Crêpe] that they love so much.

As we finished cooking and reached a point where we could rest, Meiya came along.
As promised, she brought with her some liquor.

At first we told her to come, with no need to bring anything, but Meiya herself seemed to want to give us a housewarming gift. Thus, she chose drinks.
Since this is a special occasion, she announced that she would bring some liquor to liven up the place.

The food Snow cooked was lined up on the table.
Stew, sandwiches, salad, meat dishes, and so on.
For dessert, [Pudding] and [Mille Crêpes] were waiting inside the fridge.

We uncorked the liquor—fruit wine Meiya brought, and had a toast.

Snow and Meiya have had alcohol before.
It was the first time for Chrisse and I, so Meiya gave us some mild fruit wine.

While drinking the delicious wine, I sampled my dear wife's home cooking.
We made pleasant conversation, a lot of time had passed before I realized.
Meiya stood up and said she was going home.

"What are you saying. Aren't you staying the night here? I've prepared a room and made the bed for Meiya's use already."
"I'm grateful for your consideration, but this is your moving day. Even I wouldn't be *that* insensitive."
"?"

I had trouble understanding what she was talking about and cocked my head to the side.
After the three of us saw her off, I finally realized what she meant.

(*T, that's right! There will be nobody but us in the house tonight!*)

It's been six years since I brought up the matter of marriage with Snow, and several months with Chrisse.
However, we never did anything ecchi throughout that entire time.
The reason was because we stayed in other people's homes, the in-laws' home, and cheap inns on the road.

It was obviously unpleasant to have our first times there.

But now we're at our own home! Anything is allowed, nobody will come bother us!

I was really late to understand what Snow meant when saying 'separation' and 'independence'.
Certainly, while it's true that Meiya is rich, relying on others for our basic necessities was too much. I'm finally reflecting on it.

"Well then, Chrisse-chan and I are going to tidy up a little then go take a bath."
[Snow-oneechan, let's wash our bodies together.]

“Yeah! It’ll be fun.”

The two of them cleaned up happily together, before heading to the bath.

Although I say bath, it’s just a large metal container with hot water, from which we pour water on ourselves as we clean up using a towel.
Like the difference between heaven and earth compared to the bath at Meiya’s estate.

(But well, if we want to get in a bath to relax, we can always just go to Meiya’s place, so it isn’t a problem.)

If it’s us, then we basically have a free pass for entering and exiting as we please.

While Snow and Chrisse were in the bath, I couldn’t calm down so I paced about the lounge room with the sofa.

(In situations like these, would it be better to prepare the bed? To begin with, do we have condoms in this world? I’ve never ever seen one… But no, maybe it’s just that I’ve never had an opportunity to get involved with a tool of that sort, and they actually do exist! In that case, as a man, it would’ve been my responsibility to buy it!)

There’s no way that I could go flying out of the house, in the dead of the night, to go knocking on the door of a closed tool shop.
To begin with, I don’t even know if they have them.

(To begin with, am I supposed to do it with both Snow and Chrisse for our first night? No, but if it’s only Snow tonight, and Chrisse is left for tomorrow night, various things will become troublesome after all… In that case, should I have one in the bedroom, the other in the guest room, and visit them one by one? But having our first experience together while the other one is waiting in the guest room would be even more awkward, right…?!)

While I interchanged between sitting on the couch and pacing around in anxiety, the two of them left the bathroom.

“Lute-kun, we’ve kept you waiting. The bath is free now.”

The two of them showed up in the living room, Snow in white pajamas while Chrisse in pink.
They were the matching pajamas that the two of them got to celebrate our new house.
The two of them were so close, they were like sisters.

[We’ll wait in the bedroom first, all right?]
“…Got it. Once I’m done with my bath, I’ll head over too.”

Judging from their attitudes, there won’t be any sexytime tonight.
The two of them were heading to the bed together after all, and their attitudes were casual.

I felt this complex mixture of disappointment due to my expectations, and relief from being saved from my ill-preparedness.

I entered the bathroom.
Snow had replaced the hot water for me.
There was steam rising from the hot water in the large tub.

I poured water on myself with a bucket a few times before cleaning my body with a towel and soap.
I poured water on my head as well, so I emptied the tub and set it down against the wall.

Leaving the bathroom, I dried my body with a towel.
After that I put on the matching pajamas that Snow and Chrisse had prepared for me.

Turning off the magic lamp in the bathroom, I headed up to the bedroom on the second floor.
At Meiya’s place, we were each allotted our own rooms.
It was the same at the Vlad House.

Occasionally, the three of us also slept together at Meiya’s house.
I couldn’t lay a hand on them those times, and it left nothing but painful memories of self restraint.

(It's our own place, but since there probably won't be any sexytime, will I have to suffer the same thing again…?)

With some pretty heavy steps, I opened the door to the bedroom.
But the bedroom lamp was off.
Are they two of them sleeping already?

"? Snow? Chrisse? If you've turned off the lights already, does it mean you're already asleep?"
"Don't worry, we're still awake. Close the door and hurry over to us."

Though I was wondering what was up with her response, I did as I was told.
Once I closed the door, the room was now pitch black.

I reflexively gathered mana to my eyes.
My night-vision was enhanced.

"!?"

In the bedroom was a large canopy bed.
It was big enough that five adults could sleep comfortably.
Snow and Chrisse had taken a liking to it, so they unanimously bought this bed. I think it might be the most expensive piece of furniture we have.

Sitting atop the bed were the two of them, with their shoulders pressed up against each other.
What's more, what they were wearing weren't the pajamas from earlier, but a negligee on top of string panties.

Snow's were white, Chrisse's were pink.
Just like their pajamas, they had their different colours.

They were wearing nothing but their underwear, and were apparently sitting on those clean bed sheets while waiting for me to leave the bathroom.

I had accidentally enhanced my night-vision.

Snow had taken down her usual ponytail, and let her silver hair run

down her back. She was red for a different reason than the blush hue normally had after a bath, and was gazing at me from on top of the bed. Unlike how childish she usually was compared to her age, right now she was looking at me with moist eyes. The chest pressed back by her negligee seemed larger than it usually did beneath her clothes. Isn't she an F?
Although Snow seemed embarrassed, she showed no signs of trying to hide those delicious-looking fruits.

On the other hand, as you'd expect, Chrisse's body seemed childishy next to Snow's. Her chest was flat, and her thighs were thin.
Although Chrisse was an unripe fruit, her expression was filled with seductiveness. With her usual pure smile and eyes filled with anxiety and expectation, she waited for me. The pink negligee that covered her body, and the underwear tied by a string——at a glance, it might have seemed unsuitable for her. But instead, the unfitting sexy lingerie on her forbidden, childish limbs made my temptation rise.

Two unbelievable beauties, and what's more, both of different types, were asking for me together.

"Snow, Chrisse…"

Like a sleepwalker in the midst of a sweet dream, I drew towards the girls with unsteady steps.
When I reached the bed, the two of them suddenly lay down, and shyly begged for me.

"Please have a good time eating me up, woof."
[I want Oniichan to love me lots and lots.]

Snow spoke in the dog-speech that she used to hate, whilst Chrisse rubbed her thighs together anxiously.
It's obvious that I was freed from the chains of reason.

If you include my previous life, then my soul was 41 years old.
Together, I had my first time with both of my wives.

Chapter 055 – The Dark Elf, Xiah

AUTHOR NOTE : *There is no Transexual here.*

A few days after the moving party.
In the morning, I slipped out of bed alone and went to the kitchen.
Wearing a pair of briefs and a shirt, I put on slippers and boiled some water.

I sliced some bread I bought yesterday and spread it with butter. I put some lettuce-looking vegetables and ham in between and a simple sandwich was made.
I made a salad with the leftover vegetables.

Once the water boiled, I brewed some Dragon Continent specialty light brown Chacha, that looks like oolong tea, and brought it to the bedroom.

Usually Snow and Chrisse would make breakfast but yesterday I gave it my all so I tired out both of them — they are now still in dreamland.
As a husband, it's my duty to show consideration for my wives' health and at least make them breakfast.

Speaking of my schedule: since my first night after moving to this house…
I spent all morning at Meiya's workshop developing armor and accessories.
In the afternoon I meet up with Snow and Chrisse to go buy food and window-shop.
Then once night falls, I carry them both, head straight for the bed and *let's go* !

This is how a standard day goes.
Regarding contraception, the girls drink a special magic potion. Being able to use that as contraception is just what I'd expect from an alternate world.

Every once in a while, I would ask Meiya's approval and secretly receive quests and earn money in the morning with just the two of us for the sake of the bracelets I'm going to give to Snow and Chrisse.

I was able to safely have my first time with them both the way we wanted to, but… unfortunately cosplay clothes and lotions weren't sold in this world, they don't exist.

I want to put sailor uniforms, bloomers and army uniforms on them!
I want them to wear camo-patterned bikinis and hold AK-47s! I want to have superior officer and NCO play! China dresses exist so I did try having them put it on, and it was really exciting!

Also, I want all three of us to get in a single bathtub and flirt.

"I don't have a bath at home after all. Of course I can't exactly use that wash-basin. I could borrow the bath at Meiya's house, but—nah, I can't do that."

Even though she's my disciple, doing lotion play in an acquaintance's bath feels too awkward.
There's also the fundamental problem that there are no lotions.

"—No, wait. Since I could make gunpowder then I should be able to make lotion, shouldn't I!?"

A flash of genius!
An amazing flash of insight happened upon my grey matter!

I immediately began experiments inside my head.

First I built the mental image of 'lotion'.
A large part of it is made up of water, so the magic is handled a lot like water magic.
I breathed in, breathed out, and concentrated.

I detached a portion of magic from inside my body, moved it to my hand, and made it manifest.

"Ooooh! It turned into lotion!?"

It was a transparent, slimy liquid.

I rubbed it onto both my hands.
When I separated my hands, the slimy liquid made threads.
Perfect! Right now there is a perfectly made lotion in my hands!
Magic is amazing! Magic banzai! Khorosho!

This is a revolution!
If I can ask Snow or Meiya to make lots of these I can do lotion play that I only saw on DVDs in my previous life!
Ooh! Wild ideas just keep coming forth!

As my heart was trembling from the numerous possibilities, I heard footsteps coming down from the second floor.
It looks like those two had woken up.
I washed my hands.

The water boiled just in time, so I brewed three people's worth of *chacha* .
We carried breakfast from the bedroom to the living room for a change of place.

I gave Snow and Chrisse, who were still looking sleepy, a morning greeting with a smile fresher than highland grass.

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"You know. I think we should get started working for real soon."

As the three of us sat on the living room chairs, having my special-made breakfast, Snow put out a proposal.
Certainly, no matter how we say we have an excess of funds, we'll become useless people if we stay like this.

"You're right. We should start working soon just like Snow says."
[That's right. Let's aim for level III again.]

Chrisse agreed, showing a motivated face.

"Level III, huh…."

I stroked my fingers on my chin in thought.

Exterminating monsters around town can get you up to level II, but that won't do for level III.

The basic quests for level III are typically things like going far away to another town to deliver things, exterminating high level monsters, or guarding wagon convoys.
Things that demand an adventurer's special expertise.

Also, from here on we'll need to put security deposits.
It's a system to prevent taking on quests without actually participating in them. The security deposit is of course paid back after the quest is complete.

But that is exactly why I'm hesitant.
With quests that I've never done before, along comes trouble.
About 4 years ago, because of my lack of basic adventurer knowledge, I was tricked by fake adventurers and sold off as a slave to the Demon Continent.

Though it was good that I was able to find my wife Chrisse as a result, the trauma etched in my heart doesn't disappear so quickly.
Wagon escort missions seem simple at first glance, but I don't know what'd happen if I were suddenly attacked in the middle of the night by a large number of people and fell into panic. It's one thing if it's just me, but I have two wives I have to protect, so I can't just recklessly fire my guns at random.

That indecision probably had something to do with the reason why I have been living the lazy life recently.

"Then you can just buy a slave and all will be fine! "
"Uwaa!? M, Meiya! Since when?!"

Before I knew it, Meiya Dragoon was standing at the living room entrance.
As usual, she was in a dragon dress and holding a folding fan.

"I knocked the front door but nobody replied so I showed myself in!"
"Showed yourself in…. what about the key?"
"I *am* a genius magic tool developer second to Lute-sama. Opening that

kind of lock was no trouble at all. Ahem desu!”

Don’t ‘ahem desu’ me!
Meiya proudly puffed up her large chest.

But what she said had truth to it.
Even if they were introduced by the Adventurers’ Guild, I can’t trust another adventurer so easily.
So rather than that, buying a slave, which carries no risk of betrayal, is a better plan.

Luckily I have some funds to spare.
At worst I can just borrow from Meiya.

“……. Should we try and give it a look?”
“Well, just looking is free, after all.”
[Besides, there might be a person like onii-chan we might be able to pick up, too]

After getting my wives’ approval, regardless of whether or not we would end up actually buying one, we decided that we would go have a look.

“Then let’s go to the slave market today!”

Likely because she was happy her plan was accepted, Meiya enthusiastically did an air punch.

We’ll be taking a break from the armor and accessories development today.
Since we’re already going, I think we should probably do some shopping and invite Meiya for dinner after we have finished looking at the slaves.

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There’s but one place that sells slaves in this town.
A number of different slave merchants have gotten permission from the kingdom and set up together as the “Brutus Slave Market”

For defensive reasons, the [Brutus Slave Market] was set up behind

the Adventurers' Guild.
It seems to have been done to make sure that any problem can be handled quickly when it happens.

We've been to the Adventurers' Guild several times, but other than Meiya, none of us knew where the building was.
We've never had any business that takes us behind the Adventurers' Guild, so we never noticed it.

The first floor of the [Brutus Slave Market] has cages for display, but the first floor had no entrances or exits.
It's to prevent the slaves from escaping.
The same reason why I was once locked down in the basement of [Rano Slave House].

The [Brutus Slave Market] operates by having multiple slave traders bring their slaves.
It had a system where, upon entering the market, new slave traders had to pay an entrance fee after having passed strict examinations and are then allowed to put up their slaves for a fixed period of time.

Because of this system, the slave traders compete with each other, increase the quality of their slaves, have a wide selection of races, and there are no traders who cheat on their sold merchandise.

In the Demon Continent where I was taken to as a slave, people wanted mine slaves for digging coal, gold, silver, copper, magic stones, and such.
Of course, there is demand for mine slaves here in the Dragon Continent, too. However, in this town demand is not only for physical laborer-type slaves. There is demand for various types of slave.
Since bringing together many slavers means the quality and species of slaves becoming more diverse, this system was adopted.

The second floor is the reception area.
We went up the stairs and inside the room, and saw that similar to the Adventurers' Guild they did business behind counters here too.

Meiya explained how it all worked.

As I thought, this is not a place just anyone can come to.
At least, there are age limits.
Adults, over 15 years of age.
We were 14 and 13 years old so we normally couldn't come inside, but since there is a guardian, Meiya, there seems to be no problem.

It seems you present the kind of slave you want at the desk, then they give you a listing of slaves that meet the criteria.
Afterwards, you go down the stairs connecting the second floor to the first.
There were numbers placed on the cages, so you go there and confirm the actual thing, and negotiate with the official standing by the cage. This is done to let it not become an exhibition, prevent raillery, because the typical slaves are lightly dressed or naked.
The reason the slaves were lightly dressed is because getting them to strip for evaluation each time would be a pain, and it would ruin their physical condition to have them keep wearing clothes and stripping, which would harm their value as merchandise.
Because of that the first floor had its temperature raised with magic.
The reason the first floor is entirely walled in is not just to prevent the slaves from escaping, but also so that the room temperature doesn't go down.

The receptionist noticed Meiya and immediately stood up and rushed over.
Then, without saying a thing we were taken behind the reception desk—to a reception room.
A total VIP treatment….

It seems when you're someone of Meiya's class, you don't go and see the slaves, but mention your requirements and the slave would be taken along to this room.
As expected from the Magic Stone Princess, whose name is known not just in the Dragon Continent, but throughout the world.

In under 10 minutes, the man in charge of the [Brutus Slave House] showed up.
Talking about slave traders you'd picture a guy with a scary face, but this guy's face seemed like the goodness of humanity itself. He had a protruding belly, making him look much like a Daikoku .

“Welcome, welcome, Meiya-sama. I’m the representative in charge of the [Brutus Slave House]. My name is Enos. Pleased to make your acquaintance.”
“How do you do, Enos?”

Meiya exchanged a handshake with Enos.
Then I shook hands with him as well.
Meiya sat down in the seat of honor, while the three of us sat on the sofa opposite of Enos.

“Well then, Meiya-sama, what kind of slave do you hope to see today?”
“It’s not me today, it’s my master Lute who’s coming to see some slaves. I’m only escorting him.”
“Hoo, so you are Meiya-sama’s rumored master!”

Having been introduced by Meiya, Enos stared at me, eyes wide in wonder.

“If you’re Meiya’s master, then we as well have to give our all and introduce you to our recommended slave.”

Enos laughed, his large belly shaking.

“Then what kind of slave do you hope to see?”
“Umm, one with adventurer experience, aged 15 – 20, and I don’t care about magic ability.”
“How about the gender?”
“Female! ——————————But it’s just a preference, so if there’s one that meets the conditions, I don’t mind if he’s male, okay?”

I unintentionally said so but immediately made an addendum.
There’s no change in the attitudes of Snow and Chrisse sitting to my left and right.
On the contrary, that scares me.

But see, a young male would be unpleasant in lots of ways.
Which is why I chose female…… I don’t have any ulterior motives okay?

As I was making up excuses in my mind, Enos racked his brains for a

slave that met my requirements.
After some time he seemed to have thought of something, raised his face and said with a smile.

"There is one who meets your requirements. She's a slave I'm handling, her name's Xiah. She's 16 years old, she was an adventurer for 3 years since she was 12, and is a level III. She's a female from the Fairy Race, Dark Elf Clan, and a B-plus ranked magician."
"A B-plus ranked magician slave, so she'd be worth about 500 gold, I think?"

I was amazed at the cost Meiya mentioned.

(*F, five hundred gold!? That's about 50 million in Japanese yen, right? Screw that. I don't have that kind of money!*)

I quickly gave up on buying her.
As expected, it would be better to have just the three of us adventuring and raising our levels.
She's too expensive, no matter how you look at it.

"Normally I would offer her to you for that amount, but… if you're willing to take her I don't mind handing her over for 250 gold."
"Half off from the normal price? That's quite a discount."

Enos smiled bitterly at my cynical remark.

"Of course, I don't intend to deceive Meiya-sama's master. She's in good condition, no sexual experience, a virgin. She can properly handle magic, too."

Oi, why are you emphasizing the virgin part?
Well, it's an important part, in a way.

"It's just that Xiah is a strange one… she sold herself off as a slave."
"Sold herself off?"
"We get those sometimes. People that got too poor and were willing to be a slave even for free. Being a slave they don't have the right to their life anymore but they can escape the fate of dying from starvation tomorrow or the day after. If they're lucky they can get bought by a good master and

live a peaceful life. Only… Xiah freely gave herself up as a slave on one condition."

And that condition is?

"It was [Only sell me to a master I consider acceptable]. With that contract, a friend of mine took Xiah as a slave, but after about 1 year there was no master she would accept and soon there were no longer any buyers. Obviously, my friend was astounded and gave her over to me saying [I can't handle her anymore!]"
"I see… so if this Xiah girl would accept me as her [Master], you are willing to sell her to me for half the usual price?"
"Yes, that's how it is."

Certainly, she's a strange one.
No, I'm not sure I can just call her 'strange', she's more of an eccentric.

"Are there any attributes she wants, or any particular basis for who she's willing to have as her master?"

With a troubled look, Enos shook his head.

"That is simply, to quote the person herself, 'I'll only be sold to a master I recognize myself', a single point. Since that contract is there, I cannot sell her on other conditions…. So therefore, if it's Meiya-sama's master, I thought for sure that Xiah would recognize you, so how about it?"

I see why he's selling her dirt cheap at half the market price.
Well of course she's in a sense a bargain slave, but I don't think she's likely to accept me as her master.
It's no use anyhow, so should I refuse, I wonder?

"How about you at least meet her for now?"

Enos asked, his face looking like he's pleading me.
Judging from the way he looked, it seems she's unsellable dead stock that just takes up maintenance costs. He's clinging on the slight possibility that Meiya's master might be recognized by the eccentric Xiah as her master.
If all goes well, if Xiah were really pleased with me, he might be able to sell her off before he expends too much capital.

Honestly, I myself want to see what kind of girl she is.
Trying is free after all, I don't think I'll do anything more than see her.

"……. All right. Let's just try and see her. Don't complain if she won't recognize me as a master, okay?"
"Of course! Please wait a little while."

Enos gleefully stood up from the sofa and left the reception room.
After about 10 minutes, he brought along a girl held between two guards.

"Thank you for waiting. This is Xiah who we talked about earlier."

I turned my eyes towards her.
Her eyes carried a strong will. She was about as tall as Snow, probably a little shorter. She had sharp eyes but if she put her face in order I could call her cute.

On her neck there is a magic prevention collar. Her hands and feet are restrained with sturdy chains, and held from both sides by the guards. All in all they've prepared measures to be sure.
The clothes she's wearing are worn out, top and bottom. Her navel is visible. Her breasts are just a little larger than average. About D-cup I guess?
Her black hair is cut to shoulder length. Her pointed ears, characteristic of Elves, peeked out from under her hair.
This seems to be Xiah, the eccentric Fairy Race, Dark Elf Clan girl.

"This person is the one who is willing to buy you. Go on, say hi."

Um, I haven't decided on buying her, though….

With her sharp gaze, Xiah stared at us as if she was evaluating us.
We're getting our roles reversed here.

"……. My name's Xiah, pleased to meet you."

After she was finished with her evaluation, she curtly greeted us.

A Dark Elf *and* a [bokukko] !?

That's some character.

"Good grief, don't you know any manners?"
"I've worked for a man of high social standing you know? It's not quite that I don't know any. I just don't bother."
"Really, you …"

Enos tiredly sighed.
He introduced her to us again.

"This is the Lute-sama who will buy you. The teacher of that Magic Stone Princess Meiya-sama. How's that? He's a fitting person to be your master, isn't he?"
(Told you I haven't decided that I would buy her yet)

Xiah shrinks her pupils at that introduction with great interest.

"Really, so you are *Lute* huh."

Her reaction is almost like someone I know.
But I have no recollection of meeting her before?

"Erm … Have we met somewhere before ?"
"I wonder …"

Xiah began to giggle.
As I desperately tried to remember her, she dropped a bomb that blew my mind.

"*Tanakakouji* — Don't you remember hearing that ?"

Tanakakouji— *Tanaka Kouji* !?

Suicide, letting one die, bully, delinquent, stabbed to death, hanging by the neck — the trauma in the distant past became a black tsunami and painted out my soul.

"UwaAaAaaaaaaaaAAAaaaaAaaaaa!!!"

My scream reverberates in the reception room.

I lost my consciousness afterwards.

That was once the name of a friend who was in part the reason I abandoned everything in the previous world, became a hikkikomori, and died.

Chapter 056 – Condition for the Master

Author's Note: *The Black Elf chapter isn't a transexual (and again, I have no intention of doing any transexuals).*

Hypothetically, another reincarnator appears; I intend to have them have the same sex as they did in the previous world.
I apologize for having written in a way that caused misunderstanding .

———————————-

"…, this is the bedroom ?"

When I woke up, I was in the bedroom in my house.
I recognized the canopy above my bed.

I got myself up.
Outside, the sun is setting; it's becoming dark.

"…To think that I get to hear the name 'Tanaka Kouji' in this world."

No, because I died, reincarnated and got to keep my memories from the previous world, I thought that there are other people like me too. But to think that it's someone from the same world…
I didn't think that the name of someone related to me would come up.

"Just who is that Black Elf?"

No matter how hard I try to dig through my memories, I can't remember anything about her.
She knew my name but not my face — or so was her attitude.

Could there have been someone that let her know that I'm a reincarnator?If so, then how does that person know I'm a reincarnator? I don't understand their motive; why didn't that person come and meet me themself? Moreover, knowing that 'Tanaka Kouji' and I are related, could it be that the person behind her is 'Tanaka Kouji' himself ? If so. then why did he not not come see me himself? Generally, how does he know I'm the reincarnated 'Hotta Youta' ? It's unthinkable that he figured it out just from

the fact that I develop guns…

I sat up on the bed and let idle thoughts run over my mind.
No matter how much I think it's useless.
To know the answer, I can only ask Xiah herself directly.

I sighed, got out of the bed, and went down the living room on the 1st floor.
Snow, Chrisse and Meiya were drinking tea.
Seems like they were waiting for me to wake up.

Snow, who has good ears, knew I was coming down from the 2nd floor, then she spoke with a worried expression the moment I enter the room.

"Is it okay to get up already ?"
"Yea, I'm okay. My bad for making you all worried."

I patted Snow's head.
Chrisse poured me a cup of warm chacha. I patted her head too.

I flopped down on the sofa and drank the chacha in one go.
The leaves' scent, the slightly astringent taste and the warmth have revived me.

I hold the cup with both hands and said to everyone:

"I think I will buy that slave called 'Xiah'."

As if they've predicted this, they weren't surprised, but they did have worried expressions.
Snow ask me as the representative.

"I didn't mind that, but …. that Xiah seems to know Lute-kun, but does Lute-kun know her?"
"I tried to remember her too, but I don't have any recollection."
"Then, what is that 'Tanakakouji' she had said ?"
"……."

As I thought, they heard it.

But, there's no way I can explain to them that I was reincarnated with memory from previous life, and Tanaka Kouji is the name of the guy I let die without helping him.

"…Sorry, I can't tell you now."
"Got it. I will wait 'till Lute-kun talks."
[I will wait too.]

My wives Snow and Chrisse nod with a smile without any pretension.
….I've got really good wives.

Then I turn around, face Meiya and bow my head.

"With that said, I want to buy that slave, Xiah, at all costs. But I don't have 250 gold coins so I'm sorry, but can you lend me the money?"
"Please raise your head, Lute-sama! As I've said before, disciples' belongings are teachers' belongings. In other words, my money is Lute-sama's money! Please don't hold back; use them to your heart's content !"
"Thank you, Meiya. But I will pay you back."
"Lute-sama is so mean," Meiya unhappily grumbled at my answer.

I didn't mind that and continued the talk.

"I want to go the slave market as soon as it opens; won't you come with me ? I'm still only 14-years-old, which is not enough for the required age to enter the market, so I want you to accompany me."
"Understood! Of course I'd be glad to accompany you! Well then, to go together early in the morning, I'm staying the night!"

Meiya smiled brilliantly, because it was her first time staying over at my house.
It seemed that she would return to her house once to prepare for the stay-over.
Then in the meantime, we prepared the guest room and dinner.

For now, everyone put Xiah's matter aside and happily started preparing for the stay-over.

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The next morning, I skipped breakfast and had Meiya accompany me to visit the [Brutus Slave Market] first thing in the morning.

We went up the second floor and showed ourselves at the reception desk, then immediately proceeded to the reception room from yesterday.
Enos showed up to the reception room with a sickly pale face and pressed his head on the floor.

"I humbly apologize for introducing Meiya's master Lute-sama to a terribly rude slave yesterday! I will ensure that something like that doesn't happen again from now on, so please have mercy on me!"

I think I've seen that attitude before.
The man working for the estate agency, from when I was looking for a place to move to, acted the same way.
It looks like after I fainted yesterday, he was thoroughly yelled at and threatened by Meiya.

First, I urged him to raise his head.

"Please raise your head. Actually, *I'm* the one who should apologize for causing trouble yesterday. I won't show such an unsightly display again, so can I see yesterday's slave, Xiah, one more time? If she'll allow it, I'll be sure to buy her."
"W, we're of course grateful for that but will it really be all right?"
"Yes, please."
"Understood. I'll call her right away then; please wait a little while."

Enos left the reception room in a hurry.
Then a little over 10 minutes later, Xiah showed up held in between the same two guards as yesterday.
A magic-prevention collar was on her neck. Her arms and legs were restrained with sturdy chains, and she was wearing ragged clothes top and bottom–just like yesterday.

I stood face to face with her and asked:

"Xiah, I want to buy you. So, I want you to somehow accept me as your master. Of course, I'm not going to be rough. I'll release you if you desire it. I just want you to answer a few questions."

"……. hmm, despite how you look, you gather up a lot of money quickly. Did you borrow from that genius magic-tool inventor over there?"

I nodded.
Xiah looked down at me and laughed through her nose.

"So in the end, that's all you are. Looks like you don't have what it takes to be my master, either."
"Is that how a Fairy race, and a slave at that, talks to Lute-sama who ranks higher than the gods!? Know your place!"
"Meiya, be quiet."
"B-, but Lute-sama!"

"I said be quiet."
"I-, I'm sorry."

My tone was unexpectedly cold.
Meiya shuddered like a puppy that was drenched in the rain.…… That was a bit too cold. I'll apologize to her later.

But before that, I shouldbuy Xiah no matter how.

"So, how do you suppose you'll accept me as your master?"
"Let's see… In that case, show your strength by fighting me. If you can win, I'll recognise you as my [Master]."
"Alright. Let's do it. If I win I'll have you accept me as your master. Don't take back your words if you lose."
"*tch*! Don't look down on me! There's no way I'll do something *that* preposterous!"
"Then let's set up the conditions in detail."

I ignored the exasperated Xiah and indifferently continued the discussion.

Xiah and I totally ignored everyone else and decided on the conditions for the match—The match will be a hand-to-hand fight without magic. That was because Xiah had a magic-prevention collar attached. Blinding and groin attacks are forbidden. The one who faints or lost the will to fight loses. The location for the fight is the [Brutus Slave House], first floor. That place is solidly built, and if you clean up the resting space in the middle, it

will be wide enough for a fight. It's completely surrounded by walls, so we won't cause trouble outside the store.

Of course, the representative of the staff of the [Brutus Slave House], Enos, has something to say.

"L-, Lute-sama, please do something that would damage the goods like that *after* the purchase. Also, we'll be in trouble if you fight here."
"We'll be using the first floor now, so gather up the chairs in the rest area and put them aside."
"N-, no, well let's do something like that once we've written up the contract—wait! Why do I have to use honorifics towards a slave!?"
"Sorry, *please* let us use the first floor. Please."
"It's certainly still early, so there are no other customers, but this place is used together by the slavers guild so I can't—"
"*Please.* "

Rather than my urging, it was probably Meiya who was sitting next to me with a glare that said "So,*you're* also going to deny the divine Lute-sama's request? You want to die? You want to lose your place to live in the Dragon Continent that had had a better effect on him?"
Enos gave in.

"Ugu, w-, why do these things always happen to me…. I was yelled at by Meiya-sama yesterday, too; it was horrible…. Alright! But don't go complaining to me, whether you win or lose! Also Xiah, after this fight I'm definitely going to let you go! I've had enough of this jinx of a slave! Don't ever show your face in front of me again!"

We were able to get the [Brutus Slave House]'s representative Enos' permission.
Thus begins the hard fight of Me vs Xiah.

Chapter 057 – Serious Fight Club

『Slave Market Brutus』 First floor is surrounded by four walls.
The slaves are put in an iron cage, lined up in a row alongside the wall. In the middle, each of them are also lined up in two columns.
In the cages where the slaves were, there was a number on it, and in order to advertise each of them (the slaves), the merchant sat in front of the merchandise.

On the second floor, the receptionist tells you the (TL: cage) number of the type of the slaves you wish for, and the customers go to the cage of that number. Naturally, there's no problem to look around for in the other cages besides the one that was directed.

Wall, floor, and roof are made out of stone; with light created by magic, the inside was thoroughly illuminated.
Windows that are about 30-centimeters-wide, with wooden slatted shutters that open and close, were all open.
Led by guards wearing armor, we who have descended from the second floor were being gazed at curiously by the slaves inside their cages.

It's as spacious as three gyms connected together side by side.
In the middle, in order to create a space (for the customer) to take a break, rest chairs were placed there. If those chairs were put away by the guards, then a space for competition would be created instantly.

For the match, the shackles on Xiah's hands and feets were taken off by the guards.
She moved 2-3 times to loosen up her muscles.

I also left the gun belt below my hands and shoes that I was wearing to Meiya who was standing near me.

"You didn't really have to imitate me and take your shoes off. If you want to, how about as a handicap, you can use that magic device-ish thing?"
"Nah. It would be troublesome if you complain when I win afterward. Or you're letting me use it so you can make an excuse later ?"

Xiah made a face full of displeasure.

“Fu~n , I pray that your ability is more than that insolent mouth of yours.”

She glared at me with a sharp gaze.
I returned an indomitable glare.

“Lute-sama, please don’t over do it.”
“I understand. Meiya, it is too dangerous, so please leave here.“

She nodded her head and went some distance away.

A guard acting as a referee stood before us.

“Again, to confirm the terms: no magic, no weapon, no blinding (as in damaging the eyes), no kickingon the balls (the crotch), and the opponent who faints or loses the will to fight will lose. Furthermore, if we deem this match to be too dangerous, we will stop it. Are there any questions (problems)?”
“No problem.”
“Neither do I.”

With our mutual consent, the guard took some distance and gave us instructions.
Distanced about 10 meters, the guard with a volume loud enough to be heard even outside gave us the signal, “START!”

Xiah and — I immediately took our stances.

I set up both my hands close to my chin .
She also took a similar posture.

“Lute-sama, please do your best!”

While listening to Meiya’s encouragement, I confronted Xiah.

She tiptoed around me clockwise with a tempo.

"_____Fu!"

With a sharp step, she released a left-jab kind of punch. Flustered while backing away, barrages of attacks persistently followed me.
I drove her away with a jab.
Unfortunately, it was dodged with a duck; conversely, a right punch sunk into my body.

"Gu!"

The damage received wasn't much, because I stepped back, but my movement was stopped.
She continued with a left middle kick.
I reflexively guarded my side — but she flexibly changed the trajectory and the kick hit my cheek.

It can't be a Brazilian kick!?

"….!? "
"WOOO**oooooooo** OOO**oo** OO**w** !!!"

I couldn't bear it and my hand touched the floor as I fell.
Excited from the fact that an attack went through, the slaves and guards exclaimed to the point of ear-hurting.

"Lu, Lute-sama! To say Lute-sama is someone like the world's national treasure is not an exaggeration! To do something such as kicking, the god will not accept such blasphemy!"

"Fu~n, only this much. Seems like you are nothing but that impudent mouth of yours."

Xiah ignored Meiya's screams, while gazing down at the guard who fell with cold eyes.
I grinded my teeth and got up, and lunged a right-upper that she magnificently dodged backwards.
Once again, a distance was created.

'I am not underestimating her because she is a woman…..but her attacks are very precise. I feel like I will be defeated if I let my guard

down.'

If I were to be defeated then maybe I can't even ask why she knows the name 'Tanaka Kouji'.
My fighting spirit reignited.

Xiah observed me closely.
The martial art that she used is not something orthodox in this world.

She took a rhythm with the tips of the toes and steadily dealt damage.
If I attacked, she would retreat without doing anything reckless.
Completely hit and back away–a polished hand-to-hand combat technique.

However, compared to Master and Gigi-san, the punch was weak.
There's no impact.
Having gone through Master's frightening experience first-handedly, this level was not scary at all!

That time, it was my turn to attack!

"Fu!"

I attacked with a straight left jab!
But she stepped back and dodged it.

Furthermore she circled me clockwise with light steps.
Ignoring it, I continued to jab at her.
Xiah was barely dodging while she measured the timing.

I purposely attacked with a right straight with an exaggerated motion.
Matching to that timing, Xiah aimed for a counter. Just like I predicted!
We both dodged at the same time.

Distance became zero.
I immediately locked both of my hands at Xiah's neck!
The posture is known as Muay Thai's neck-wrestler.

"!?"

She lost her tempo because of confusion from first time seeing this

move.
Seizing that chance, I attacked her side with my right knee.

"Gaa!"

A painful breath leaked out near my ear.
Without loosening the grip, I released a second one!
In the same place, I attacked with my right knee.

While grasping painfully, Xiah thrusted me away with both of her hands.
Once again, another distance was created between us.

However, the damage on the abdomen seemed serious; breathing roughly, Xiah supported herself with her knee.

"UO**o** O**o** O**oooooooo** O**oo** !!!"

The guards and the slaves bursted out with cheers.

This time, the position reversed where I was looking down at her instead.

"Whether I'm just an insolent mouth or not, you understand now, right?"
"You, you, baaastard!"

With a painful expression, Xiah tried to stand up.
However, the flame inside her eyes has not burned out yet.
I as well.

"Here I go!"
"Yeah! Come at me, Xiah!"

We both shouted out a cry of war and charged at each other from the front.

Both of our war cries and the slaves, including the guards cheers, merged together.
Our voices probably reverberated all the way outside.

Overcoming the man- and woman-gender distinction, Xiah and I exchanged blows.

The outcome was——double knockout.
The conclusion of the match was a draw.

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Xiah and I shaked hands at my house, where we were isolated from people.
On the table in front of me, there were cold drinks on top.
She drank it in one breath, then vigorously put the cup back on the table.

“At first, I thought you were a weak guy, but you have guts. Truly, it was a good fight.”
“You too, Xiah’s fist is really effective. Especially when that left kick hit my face; it was so dangerous.”
“No, no, I should say the same. When we glued to each other and your right knee hit my abdomen, I thought by ribs were broken.”

And so, Xiah praises me about the battle.
Apparently, she’s the type that doesn’t hold grudges, as there was no ill feeling after the battle.

The match was double knockout — and ended in a draw, however we were able to safely buy Xiah.
We went home after creating tons of bruises and injuries.

The wounds were healed by Snow’s magic.
Thanks to that, no matter where you’d look, there was not even a single scratch.

As fellows that had traded blows, a strange feeling of solidarity was born.
Xiah lowered her head deeply as she sat still on the sofa.

“Well then, again, please take care of me, master. While I’m still inexperienced, I will work hard to become useful for you.”
“Stop calling me “master.” Sure, I bought you and I’m your master on paper. But aren’t we comrades who had punched each other with all our

might? Call me by my name: *Lute.* ”
“No, even if you say that … well then from now on, I’ll call you *young master.* ”
“Well if you say so. Take care of me too.”
“It’s my pleasure, young master!”

Connected by the friendship of fellows who have fought each other, which is not comprehensible to Snow and Chrisse, we shook hands again.

Done with the sportsmanlike conduct, I ask her some questions.

How did she know about me?
How does she know the name *Tanaka Kouji* ?

That’s it, 2 points.

Xiah talked without the coldness she displayed like when she was at [Brutus Slave Market].

“It’s related to a secret I’ve been hiding. That’s why, young master and madams; please don’t tell anyone.”

She said so beforehand.

“You may not believe me but … since I was small, I have had this *Oracle*- like power that let me hear God’s divine message.”

But it seems that since this power was only one-sided, God couldn’t hear her wish.

Due to that oracle, she knew my name, and if she says *Tanaka Kouji,* then she would be bought by a fitting master — by me for sure, or so she was told.
It seems the duel with me was just to confirm whether or not I really was a fitting master for her.

It’s an unbelievable story for us …. but it’s a fact that Xiah has been bought by me as a slave.
Xiah too was finally being all smiles with joy, because her earnest petition was fulfilled.

I thought for sure that she had some kind of connection to Tanaka but …

I still had an uncomfortable feeling.
But Xiah is not a bad person. I could tell precisely because we traded fists.
Also, because we've made the master-servant contract, she couldn't betray me and put me at a disadvantage.
So was this discomfort just my imagination?

Not minding my tinge of discomfort, she happily bowed her head with a smile.

"I am truly happy to be able to meet a suitable master, thanks to this power. I'll be in your care from now on."
"Me too, I'll be counting on you."

We stopped the chat then and decided that Xiah would live with us in the house from now on.
Her room will be in the first-floor guest room.

I spent the day buying Xiah's clothes, underwear, and accessories.

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The next day at the Meiya residence.
I had her watch the shooting of the [S&W M10], [AK-47] and [M700P] at the shooting range by the workshop.
Because from that day forward, I wanted to have her use them too.

Snow, Chrisse and I each respectively fired the [S&W M10], [M700P] and [AK-47].

Xiah slowly released her hands that had been holding down her pointed ears, she had a surprised look in her face.

"To even be able to make something like this… I see, the Magic Stone Princess didn't call you her master for nothing."
"I'm going to have you use these too from now on."
"It is indeed a wonderful magic tool, but I don't know if I can use it well…"

She said in a reluctant tone.

“Xiah, when you were an adventurer, what kind of weapons did you use?”
“I used knives and twin swords. So I don’t handle ranged weapons too well.”
“Ugh, twin swords, huh…”

One of the fake adventurers who tricked me and sold me off as a slave had twin swords.
Uuuuh…. my trauma.

“W-, well, if it’s you, Xiah, you’ll be able to handle it with a little practice. Besides, I don’t mind equipping you with a knife just in case. We’ll go to a weapons store later and buy something you like.”
“Thank you very much, young master.”

If it came to it, I could even make her a knife myself.
There was also the option of having her use one of the special-purpose knives the Russian army uses.
Let’s try things out when we would have had time afterwards.

I considered researching knives alongside making the tools and accessories. There also were several other things I wanted to make.
Also, as for Snow and Xiah’s AK-47s, I decided that making them would be practice for Meiya as well.

Chapter 058 – Level III Promotion Quest

About a month and a half later, we were running quickly while wearing full equipment in the middle of a thick, verdant forest.

We were wearing field clothes with belts around our waists, equipped with several pouches attached to those belts by ALICE clips.
We had combat protectors on our elbows and knees.
Our combat boots were firmly planted on the ground.

Xiah was at the lead, followed by Snow, Chrisse, and I lining up behind.

Through her eye-protection gear (goggle-type), Xiah aimed her Meiya-made AK-47 at the prepared target and fired.

BANG!

The target on the ground had its center blown away.
Snow and I with AK-47s then shot through targets hanging from tree branches.
Chrisse stayed behind while watching our surroundings.

Once all targets were shot through, we started moving again.
We continued the training until all the prepared targets were destroyed.

The final target was shot from 100 meters away right on the bullseye by Chrisse.

“Welcome back, everyone!”

Once we finished training, we slipped out of the forest to where Meiya was waiting.
The Meiya Residence maids prepared chairs, a table, and a parasol—making a simple rest area.

We were outside of town at a nearby forest.
We put on a notice at the Adventurer’s Guild and did some outdoors

training.
Monsters were previously driven away.

But still, there seemed to be some left, so we dealt with those that we encountered during training.

The one who sensed the remaining monsters faster than anyone else was Xiah.
Before she became a slave, when she was an adventurer, it seems she took the role of a scout, sensing monsters' movements before anyone else could.
Her presence-sensing towered above others' by far.

It was to the point that Xiah declared that "While I was an adventurer, I never got caught in a surprise attack even once".
We believed her and made her a scout that time—in my previous world, she'd be called a Pointman.

The result was beyond imagination.
We'd probably have used this formation again the next time it's needed.

We took off our eye-protection gear and put down our AK-47s and M700P.
I took off my helmet and sat on a chair alone.
I wiped my head and neck with a cold, wet towel the maids handed me; it soon became stained with dirt and sweat.

I took off the cap off the canteen that was attached by ALICE clip, then I emptied the lukewarm water.
After I rehydrated myself, the sweat poured out again, and I received a new towel.

After I enjoyed my little break, I checked everyone's equipment' conditions.

"In the training, have you noticed anything that bothers you ? Like, is your movement is restricted, or does the size not match or is it hard to use?"

"**As I thought, I don't need the helmet!** " x3

OH, all the girls objected with “HELMET, NO!”
I gave them before training, but they all had their reasons and didn’t wear it even once.

Snow’s was because “My ears hurt.”
Chrisse’s was because “Uncomfortable so I can’t concentrate.”
Xiah just said one word in “nuisance” and put it away.

Even though I diligently made them ….
As a result, I was the only one who was using it.

“An..anything else ?”
[Onii-chan, can’t this eye-protection gear be easier to see through ?]
“Yeah, I did my best though …”

The eye-protection gear was goggles-type glasses.
In battle, there are many potential damages to your eyes–wind and dust, ejected cartridges from allies, and scattering pieces of wood or rock caused by a bullet. There are also fragments from the blast of magic and such. If your eyes get hurt, then your combat potential will drop significantly. For those reasons, it becomes a necessity.

The problem is the glass part.
Some products like [Ess Ice] that is currently adopted in the American army have strength that can even withstand shotgun buckshot.
But that stuff doesn’t exist in this world.

Meiya and I collaborated and did a lot of trial and error; as a result, we chose goggle-type eye-protection gear. For the glasses part, we made them in the shape of beehive with magic liquid metal. For the gap, we used the magic stone’s power placed at the back of the head to create a thin water membrane to prevent small dust, sand and such.

But using it in reality does obstruct your visibility a lot.
But if I make the beehive hole bigger, then it won’t be able to block incoming fragments. The water membrane isn’t that strong, so I could only experiment over and over to find the balance afterward.

“Understood, I’ll devise it to make it a little easier to see. Anything else ?”

“For me it’s this … bulletproof vest? …It’s a little tight, especially around the chest area.”

The bulletproof-vest name is the same as the previous world’s, but I made it to defend against arrows, spears and swords but not bullets.
The material I’m using is a monster called Pterosaur that resemble dragon, they have wings in place of hands.

Even though the defensive power is lower than a dragon’s, the price is reasonable, I lined the scales up and fixed them to a khaki-coloured clothes.
A light but also high-defense product.

But the elasticity is pretty low.
Snow’s then growing breasts were being cramped at that point.
It was the night-hustling fault of mine though!

“Go..get it, I’ll tide it over. Anything else? Any problem with the AK, Xiah?”
“Absolutely none.”
“That’s obvious! Because it’s a product that has been made by my and Lute-sama’s teacher-student lovey-dovey collaboration! Please handle it with care, Xiah-san”

Right. The AK47 Xiah was using was made together by Meiya and I.

Ever since Meiya met me, she had been studying everything about guns all the time.
Furthermore, in order to remember the iron plate not with just her head but also body, whenever she had time, she touched, licked and smelled it to experience the strength, and she punched it, chewed it, and pressed it against her cheeks to feel the coldness, too .

The result of that endeavour: she finally acquired the power to imagine it vividly.

And as I took care of Snow’s AK, Meiya did Xiah’s. While checking the parts together, we assembled and made it.

Surprisingly, at this stage, I discovered the magic liquid metal’s weak, problematic point.

I thought that the more magic I poured in, the stronger metal it produces, but it turned out that the magic liquid metal had a property that if the magic exceeded a certain threshold, it wouldbecome brittle.

Meiya and I made the same part, but somehow, there were a lot of cases where hers was abnormally brittle.
At first, we thought it was because she couldn't imagine vividly, but the fault seemed to lie in pouring in too much magic.

If I recalled correctly, it was the same with alcohol; at 90%-plus, the sterilizing property drops instead.
At about 70%-85%, the sterilizing property becomes its highest, or so I read in some medical manga.
Magic liquid metal probably has the same property.

It's a property that was only discovered because it was made by B-rank magician Meiya.
It went gone undiscovered because it was been made by the no-talent magician Moi. It was one act that made me realized again that my magic pool was really low.

But it was a problem that could be solved by adjusting the amount of magic poured in.
The problem was then gone because Meiya adjusted the amount of magic she poured in.

Again, about AK production, I designed some small parts to fit the girls' personalities.

Snow's design was almost the same as mine.
The only difference was that it wasn't black but white.
Maybe it was because of her name, but she liked to use white.

That's why I changed the colour so they could be differentiated at a glance as to whose was whose.

In Xiah's case, the stock (the farthest part at the back of the gun that is placed against the shoulder) is not metal frame. The open hole is filled up, thereby making it heavier than our guns.
According to the person herself — she didn't like it because it was too light

and thus made her feel as if she's not carrying anything.

After training, I briefly asked everyone, but it seemed there was no special inconvenience.

"Well then, tomorrow let's go to the guild and see if there is any Level III quest."

Everyone agreed.
Finally, we started to do quest to get to Level III.

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The next morning, the four of us—Me, Snow, Chrisse, Xiah—had breakfast.

Since we weren't likely to go on a quest right away, we did not carry AK-47s, and we went to the Adventurer's Guild in plain clothes with only gun belts hanging from our waists.

This is the first time we came with Xiah, but she took a wooden tag branded with a series of numerals with practiced hands.
Soon our number was called.

"…… tch, *welcome,* ***did you get another wife*** ?"

The demon race oneesan, who always looked after us, received us in an irritated manner.

"No, she's not my wife. We were about to rank up to Level III, so we employed her. We're still beginners, so there are lots of things about adventuring that we still don't know about."

There was no need to expressly state that Xiah is our slave in public.
If we hid the brand on her arm and took off her collar, nobody could have told by looking.
Being accompanied by a magic-user's slave might have troubled us by causing something annoying.

We told that to the person herself.

Xiah took out a tag from her neck and handed it to the receptionist.

"I'm Xiah. Pleased to meet you."
"Excuse me. I'm pleased to meet you, too. Xiah-san is a Level III, aren't you? So you're taking on a quest to raise the others to Level III, is it?"
"Yes, please."

Having Xiah's answer, the receptionist fluidly turned over some documents.
She's good at what she did and had a good appearance and character, so I wondered why couldn't she get married….

The receptionist presented us with a sheet of paper.
Without looking at the document, she read out the terms written on it.

"So how about this one? The requested matter is to guard the transportation of some packages. The destination is from here through the dragon mines to the dragon kingdom. It will take about 16 days, and because of the long duration, each person gets two gold coins this time. Food and drinks are to be prepared by yourselves. The employer prepares nothing other than a carriage. The day of departure is in the morning the day after tomorrow. Should you accept, you are to come to the Adventurer's Guild at noon tomorrow to meet with the employer."

The transported goods were something related to magic tools.
There was already one team working as guards, but the employer seemed to want another team just in case. Because it was so sudden, there was no problem with using it to rise to Level III—that's the situation.
It was certainly convenient for us.
Xiah examined the request and told the receptionist that we accepted it.

"Well then, we'll take this, please."
"All right. All of you please lend me your tags. Also, from Level III onwards you're going to have to put in some deposit money. That'll be one silver coin per person this time."

The procedures regarding our quest acceptance that time were handled by the only Level III with us, Xiah.

We handed tags and the deposit money (4 silver coins) to the

receptionist.
She smoothly filled in the quest with a magic-quill pen.

Once she finished, she returned the tags to us.

"Then see you at the Adventurer's Guild at noon tomorrow."
"Understood. Please tell the employer that we won't be needing a carriage."
"Alright. I'll be sure to tell them."

Her work finished, Xiah left her seat.
We followed along behind her.

"Hey Xiah, why did you refuse the carriage they prepared?"

Since she refused, we had to prepare one by ourselves.
Which meant there would be extra expenses for that.
Xiah explained to us as we walked.

"If we don't prepare one ourselves, they're going to put us with the other team on a cheap carriage and horned horses. The employer would want to pin down their expenses. For our own safety, we have to loan or prepare a carriage ourselves beforehand, that's how adventurers do it."

It seemed that if the adventurer didn't have money, they would be using the allotted carriage and horses.
We never knew of anything like that.
I was really glad that we bought Xiah.

Then we turned towards the carriage-sellers.
Once we loaned a carriage, we went to the marketplace to buy everything else we needed.

In order to go on the Level III Quest the day after tomorrow, we began our preparations.

Chapter 059 – Duel

The next morning after, we accepted the Level III quest from the Adventurer's Guild:escort the wagon that's loaded with magic tools.
To meet with the client and other escorts, we went to the guild a little before noon.

We entered the building and asked the usherette, we then got led into the reception room.
After a while, the client and 4 other escorts appeared. The usual Demon Race receptionist girl also showed her face, maybe to bear witness.

"I'm the client, Gomugo. I deal in magic tools. Please take care of the escort tomorrow."

Gomumo the client had 2 horns sprout out from his head.
It looked like he was from the Dragon Race.
Middle-aged and no white hair yet, but the wrinkles on his face stood out. His height was about 170-centimeters-tall, he had a mustache like a hairy caterpillar under his nose.
He seemed to be a good guy.

"I'm a Level II adventurer, Lute. I'm doing this for a test to get up to Level III, but that's a different matter, and I will give it my all to do the job. Please take care of me, too."

After I showed him my adventurer tag, we shook hands.
Snow, Chrisse, and Xiah gave their own greetings after me.
The greetings went on smoothly.

"Gomugo-san, no matter how much you need some hands, requesting kids like these for the escort is just a waste of money."

The first three that took up the post as guards all had horns growing out of their foreheads, so they must had been Dragon Race. A giant of a man who made holes in his helmets and protruded his horns from there, a nimble man shorter than me, and a leader-looking man next to them who interrupted us.

The leader-looking man was easily 180-centimeters-tall, his forged muscular body without any excess fat could be seen even through his civilian clothes. He also had neater features than the other two.
His hair, which was just a little long, was tied behind his head, and from his waist hung an expensive-looking sword that looked out of place with his rough civilian clothes.

From the looks of them, they all appeared like veteran adventurers.

"Symil-san, you're being rude no matter how-"
"I'm only telling the truth here. The adventurer business is not a kid's playground. I don't know what they're planning to do; but if they don't do it well, then not only us but also Gomugo-san may face danger. Because of that, it's be better to clearly tell them this."

I can understand the leader-looking man—Symil's point.
A Level II caravan escort is not individual but group work.
One person's mistake can plunge the whole team into danger.

Again, it's not impossible for them to think we're going to push all the work to them and just take the money.

Because in reality, aside from Xiah, we're all 13- and14-year-old kids.

The Demon Race receptionist girl started speaking.

"Symil-sama, they're adventurers that have been judged by the Adventurer's Guild that they can be Level III without any problem. Actually, Xiah-sama is a B+ rank magician, not even to say Snow-sama is a A- rank magician. You can't judge a book by its cover, you know?"
"B+ rank, and even A- rank, you say !?"

Even the two men behind Symil made surprised faces.
Gomugo, the client, smiled like he got an unexpected piece of luck.

"Now that is reassuring to have an A- rank magician escort me. Looks like the security is guaranteed this time."
"Ku…!"

Gomugo, who held the right to employ, had totally wanted to hire us.
If it's like this, then no matter how much Symil and the gang make a fuss, the decision won't change.
Instead, if they make too big of a fuss, it wouldn't be strange if their contract got cancelled.

I tried looking at them, they look like they've totally lost their faces as adventurers.

The receptionist girl poured more oil onto the fire.

"Furthermore, Snow-sama and Chrisse-sama are also Lute-sama's wives, you know. The marriage to these beauties of Lute-sama's is really enviable–really… jealously … enviable."

Scary, scary.
She was radiating a dark malice just like a monster straight out of a Japanese horror movie.
I felt that I was gradually getting to understand the reason why she couldn't get married.

"Ah, and to even be able to **marry** two beautiful girls like them **at the same time** …!"

Symil's group shivered with shock.

"Ehehehee, Lute-kun, she said we're beautiful girls. Us. Beautiful girls."
[You're making me embarrassed.]

Snow and Chrisse were happily fawning on both sides of me.
Snow even started sniffing my scent.
Stop it, you, don't sniff at me in front of other people.

"E..even flirting …"

Symil and company made bitter faces and gritted their teeth loud enough for us to hear.

They literally worked with their own lives on the line to finally reach

Level III.
And yet from below, a boy younger than themselves brought along some overpowered but beautiful girls to help rise to Level III—one of the girls he brought along was even an A-minus-ranked mage, a rank only a handful of talented people could reach.

If I were in his shoes, I'd probably be like him…. no, I'd even be more envious, I'd be hatefully envious.

"……. Alright. I'll accept that the girls are strong. *But* ! The boy, just the boy, I'll never accept him! You fight me and show me what you've got *right now* !"

Which is why I kind of expected it to turn out like this.

I breathed a sigh and gave him my conditions.

"Alright. Let's fight it out. However! No hard feelings, no matter who wins or loses. After this, neither of us will say or do anything to provoke each other. We will go on this quest and do it businesslike—these are my conditions."
"Alright. I swear on my name as an adventurer. But if you lose, I'm going to have you do as I instruct throughout this job."
"Alright. If your orders aren't unreasonable, I will do as you say during the quest. Of course, that is if I lost."
"You've got guts. I'm looking forward to seeing you suffer."

Just like that, Symil and my duel began.

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The location for the duel was at the practice grounds behind the Adventurer's Guild.
This was the place where normally retired former adventurers would take newbie adventurers for practice, and it was also where the Adventurers' Guild staff would teach the art of self-defense.

It was the size of a gymnasium.
Laid along the walls were materials, lumber,swords, spears, greatswords and the like that had their blades destroyed during practice.

Symil and I stood 5 meters away and faced each other.
The Demon Race receptionist acted as referee.

"You can use your usual weapons inmagic tools, because by Snow-sama's and Xiah-sama's grace they will use healing magic. Most injuries can be healed, but please be careful not to kill your opponent."

We nodded to her words.
I chose to use the S&W M10 4-inch revolver hanging from my gunbelt, Symil chose to use the sword hanging from his waist.

As he slowly drew the sword out, he began saying something.

"I'll say it before we start, I'm Symil. ***Symil the Gale*** is my name."

Sorry, I still dunno you.

"This is my *Gale Sword* imbued with wind magic. Feel free to let it cut you!"

In short, a magic stone charged with wind magic got inserted into that sword, from the name it sounds like it has the power to shoot out *kamaitachi* or blade of wind.
Why are you taking the trouble to tell me your power.

And calling a sword socketed with just a magic stone the Gale Sword or whatever, so lame …. did he name it himself? I questioned his taste.

Symil showed a composed smile, he must've thought of my astonishment as panic.
The receptionist girl raised her right hand.

"Well then, start!"

"Uooooo! Mince him! Gale Swo–**GYARGH!** "

I activated Body Strengthening on my entire body for just 5 seconds just in case.
I did a quick draw in under a second, hitting Symil on the shoulder.

He was taken by surprise by the sudden pain and sound of the gunshot and grasping his shoulder, dropped the sword that he had raised overhead.

"D-, damn you…"

As an active adventurer, Symil seemed to be able to bear the pain, and thus he tried to pick up the dropped sword with the hand on the other side of his immobile shoulder.

BANG.

"…!?"

I shot another .38 Special (9mm) in between his outstretched hand and the sword.

"…… you still want to continue?"

I pointed the muzzle at him as a threat and muttered in a low voice:

"I-, I give!"

He immediately understood that he couldn't win and declared his loss.

This way, I could get him to recognise me without a problem, and we were then able to accept the quest.

We once again introduced ourselves to a dejected Symil and checked their adventurer tags.
Symil's group were all Level III adventurers.

Chapter 060 – Battle Time

This time, the quest was a Level III caravan escort.

The destination was the Dragon continent's capital; if we didn't take detour, then it would have taken about 10 days to reach.
But by the halfway point (after 5 days), there was a place we would stop by next.
That place is the mining town Vesta.

Since Vesta was on a mountainous area, we had to pass through a forest where a lot of monsters appeared along the way.
It would take us about 4 days to get to Vesta.

We will drop the luggage there and pick up new luggage. The plan seemed to be to stay there and rest for about 3 days.

After we get out of the mining town, we will head to the capital.
This too, will take about 4 days.

In short, 5 days to the halfway point, 4 days to Vesta, 3 days to rest, 4 days from Vesta to the capital — 16 days in total.
Once we would arrive at the capital, our job would be completed.
It was a quest that would reward 2 gold coins (approximately 200,000 yen) for about 15 days of work.

It was a price that would include a wagon, food, and inn lodging for rest days. The total amount of working hours was long, but if one counts in the days where we didn't have to fight monsters and rest days, then one could say it was a pretty good job.

I left the house to Meiya in my absence.

"Please leave it to me, Lute-sama! Lute-sama's first disciple, Meiya Dragoon, will show you that she can perfectly protect the house!" or so she spiritedly said, but I wondered why that instead of thinking of her as reliable, I felt anxiety building up inside of me …

And before departure, Snow and Chrisse brought presents and did a courtesy call around the neighborhood.
It was so they could take a look at our house once in a while when we were away.
There was nobody that would hate two cute young girls coming to greet them with presents.

They were really too good for me.

The first day after the departure.

The road to the Dragon Kingdom was made into a highway, and because there was a lot of traffic, all the dangerous monsters were basically wiped out already.
We were hired for simply passing through the forest on the way to Vesta.
Passing through the forest typically made the chance of encountering monsters higher.
That's why he hired escorts.
The wagon of Symil's 3-man group was at the front, then the client's 5 wagons, and, finally, my group's wagon at the end.
Total of 7 wagons.

As expected, the first 5 days of travelling on the highway were lively and peaceful.
But if there was any problem, it was …

"We can't use the wash toilet while travelling."

I sighed while swaying along the luggage on the wagon that was coached by Xiah.
It hadn't even been 1 hour since we departed, but when I thought about not being able to use the wash toilet, I naturally let out a sigh.

Snow felt the same and sighed together.

"Once you know that pleasantness, you can never go back."
"I want to hurry up and go home to use the wash toilet."

On the opposite side, Chrisse shook her head with a grim face.

[That demon king's weapon, I don't mind not having it at all!]

Chrisse seemed to be hostile about the wash toilet somehow.
I wanted to ask her for the reason the next time she was.

But really, there was no way I could have made a simplified, portable wash toilet and load it on the wagon.
In the wagon, there was food, weapons, ammunition, sets of protectors, sets of clothes, blankets, saddles, bridles, and 2 barrels of magic liquid metal for precaution — all the necessary items for travelling were packed tightly. We were able to create water with magic, so we didn't bring any.
And we needed space to sit in too, so there would be no space for the portable wash toilet.

Xiah, who was sitting on the wagoning seat, learned the existence of the simplified wash toilet and started mumbling.
Of course, Xiah had experienced the wash toilet too and already became a slave to it, in both her mind and body.

"If I asked that person, then maybe even while travelling ? But no, to have that person carry the wash toilet is a little …"

Seeing that serious back of hers, I was a little hesitant to call her out.
Couldn't be helped … I decided to give up on the wash toilet and make use of the free time I have now.
I took out 1 barrel of magic liquid metal, holding it between my legs.

"Lute-kun, what are you doing?"
"Huh? Well, I'm free, so I thought I should make some prototype."

Around the time that I almost finished making protectors & accessories, Snow's and Xiah's AK47s, I moved on to make other equipment.
That is — the hand grenade.

Literally "*a grenade you throw with your hand,* " it was also called the "*hand-thrown grenade.* "
A grenade is an explosive, small bomb that will scatter fragments and shockwaves if it hits.

The word “*grenade* ” came from the Spanish word “*granada* ” — “*pomegranate fruit.* ”
And it was known as “*hand grenade* ” in English.

Hand grenades are attested to have existed as early as the 13th century. In the 17th century, troops known as “grenadiers” also existed.
At first, a hand grenade was made from a ceramic alcohol bottle, a cast bronze, and an iron ball … stuffed with black powder and attached with a fuse.

Then in England in 1917, hand-grenade research began.
In 1921, the strict definition of ‘hand grenade’ was produced.
This is that definition:

1: It explodes when hit from any angle.
2: Hand grenades and rifle grenades work without needing much work or tuning.
3: It has no external protuberances that could catch on clothing.
4: It’s waterproof.
5: Even if one makes a mistake when throwing and drops it, it’ll still be safe.
6: It has a kill radius of 10 meters.
7: A rifle grenade doesn’t damage the rifle, and it has the ideal range.
8: It can be stored for long periods of time without deteriorating.

After that, hand grenades came to be produced by many nations.
Then, hand grenades evolved into two kinds: the offensive [*concussive grenades*] and defensive [*fragmentation grenades*], each having their own uses.

Concussive grenades are grenades that do damage with the [shockwaves from the explosion].
The shell wrapping the explosive was relatively thin in order to increase its blasting power.
In open spaces without cover, they both have about equal power, but its uniform kill radius of 10 meters is small compared to the fragmentation grenade.
Because it was made to be usable in areas without cover (without catching the thrower up in it).

Fragmentation grenades, as the name suggests, do damage through fragments scattered around by the explosion.

I'm getting a little sidetracked here, but … the model commonly referred to as "pineapple" have grooves carved in on the shell to scatter well when it explode. But in WWII, explosives' and fragments' creations were been studied, and it was confirmed that the grooves don't create better fragmentation at all. At best, it's only useful for preventing slipping.

That's why there are a lot of American-made hand grenades that don't have grooves but are round nowadays. The reason being "*if it's round like baseball that the soldiers are used to then, it's easier to throw.* "

Back to the topic—The insides of a fragmentation grenade is fitted with fragmenting material, such as wound-up metal bands.
Its kill range is larger than explosive grenades at about 15 meters, and it is normally thrown from behind shelters (like a trench) to avoid the fragments.

I first decided on making [fragmentation grenades] for defense.
I thought that because it had a large number of parts, I should have started on it while I had time.

Around the time I completed making protectors & accessories, Snow's and Xiah's AK47s, I made the important parts (core, shell, pull-ring safety pin, firing pin spring, firing pin, handle and such) out of magic liquid metal. On that regard, I took detailed notes, reached a decent level and made finished products for all the parts.

But the problem was the explosive.

For example, what if I used the propellant I made out of smokeless gunpowder, put it in the grenade, and blew it up? What would happen?

Even if it was to explode, the power would be far behind a normal grenade.
Why is that?

Compared to the explosives used in hand grenades, such as TNT, smokeless gunpowder had an overwhelmingly slower combustion speed

(heat-energy transmission speed).

The combustion speed of powders for rockets, cannonballs and bullets was about 10-100m per second.
Whereas the combustion speed for explosives, such as TNT, reached 3000-8500m per second.

Furthermore, the high explosive [RDX] had a combustion speed of 8700m per second.
Octogen (HMX) had a combustion speed of 9200m per second.
The instantaneous temperature reaches 1500-4500 degrees centigrade.

The technical classification for the ones used in handguns are [propellants (powder)].
Then, the ones used in high-power shells and inside explosives are [blasting powder / explosives].

The [blasting powder / explosive] I was making to pack in the hand grenade that time was the one called TNT.

Because I could reproduce the handgun powder with magic power, I expected that I could also make TNT for the grenade…. but in actuality, I tried making several prototypes at the Meiya residence, but it didn't go well.
Compared to the powder used in handguns, smokeless gunpowder, it felt like it consumed more magic power.
And I thought I had gotten the hang of it….

Therefore, since I finally had free time while we were travelling in the wagon, I thought I'd tackle the production of TNT explosives and hand grenades again.

"Hee~ is that so?"
[I don't really understand but, Lute onii-chan is amazing.]

I left out the part I couldn't tell them — WW I & II — and explained the hand grenade, but they only gave generic answers.
Clearly, they didn't have any interest.

The two of them lost interest in what I was doing and sat down next to

each other peacefully.

"Well then, let's continue the talk from before."
[Yes, the debate about whether Lute onii-chan's smell or blood is better, right?]

What's that? How scary.

Snow, with her scent fetish as always, would sniff my shirts in the laundry or the ones worn on me after a workout. Chrisse looked like she missed her blood bag and thus wanted to want to drink blood, so I let her have a little.
By the way, whenever I spent the night with her after I let her drink blood, she would react better than usual, maybe because of her heightened sensitivity.

They discussed the good things about them having different tastes and references harmoniously, not strained at all.
I was happy that the fellow wives got along with each other, but I was a little turned off by the content of the talk.

Like that, my first Level III quest smoothly progressed.
Only 7 days after the departure did the problem occur.

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We arrived at the halfway point of the highway to the Dragon Kingdom after 5 days as planned.
From the nice-looking meadows, we pressed on to the road situated between a forest that led to the mining town.
Mining town is as the name says: a town with a main livelihood of mining.

It was located on the mountain side, we had to pass through the forest.
And that raised the chances of encountering monsters.
In other words: from that point on, it was the real thing.

When we entered the forest's main road, we braced ourselves, for the air has changed.
But the monsters that came out were just the monsters we hunted around the town from Level II quests. Furthermore, not in a big pack; at best, it

was just 4 to 5 at once–not a big deal.

As if having too much energy to spare, Symil's Level III group jumped out and killed everything with great speed.
Thanks to that, we didn't get any action.

I got to take it easy, but when it was time to make a camp, Symil sarcastically said "Really, this is why I said Level II won't be much of a help at all." Even if you lost against this Level II in a flash, is his memory that bad?
…Well, it was better than him picking a fight again, I guess.

As for the night watch, the duty was divided between my group and Symil's.
First was my group, then the latter half was Symil's group.

My group divided further into two groups to do night watch.
First was Snow's and Chrisse's group, then mine and Xiah's group.
For the night watch, Xiah's presense-sensing magic was exceptionally useful, and I was mostly just holding her back.

Incidentally, the drops from defeated monsters belonged to the adventurer in this case. Meaning, they were bonuses outside of the quest.
Because we were riding a wagon, transporting the drops was also easy.
The bonuses and the quest reward together made for quite a modest sum of money.

The trouble happened in the afternoon of the second day after entering the forest road.
We had only a little more to go until we got to a place that was good for a campsite, and the forward wagon stopped.
Our wagon couldn't help but stop, too.

"I hear voices from the front wagon, sounds like a quarrel."

The member with the best ear, Snow, told us of the forward wagon's situation.
I became cautious at the mention of a quarrel.

"… Snow and I will go out front to confirm. Chrisse and Xiah, watch

out all around and be ready to move at anytime."

Having confirmed everyone's replies, Snow and I grabbed our AK47s and ran to the front.
Looking back at the wagon, I saw Chrisse sitting on top of the canopy, holding her M700P in her hands.
That would be her watching out for her surroundings and to cover us when needed.

Me and Snow immediately arrived at the scene of problem.
There was a middle-aged man sitting against a tree trunk surrounded by Symil's group and Gomugo the client.

It was not a person recklessly challenged and then repelled by our caravan.
His appearance looked like a merchant like Gomugo–full of injuries on his body, and lots of bloodstains on his clothes.
Gomugo handed him water and he drank it frantically.

Symil noticed Snow and I and frowned, but "work is work," he started explaining.

"He's a survivor of the monsters' attacks at the open ground beyond this point at where we decided to camp. I was about to ask for details."

Seemed like just the right time.
I asked Snow, and she cured the man's injuries with magic.
The man stopped drinking and gave thanks to Snow.

The middle-aged man drank up all the water and caught his breath, and he then talks about what happened at the open ground beyond this point while trembling.

He was also a merchant. He and his fellow merchants pooled money together to hire escorts to leave Vesta.
While they were preparing to make camp at the open ground, they were attacked by a company of approximately 50 Orges.
Furthermore, as it seemed that they didn't want to let anyone escape, they surrounded the merchants sneakily and attacked all at once.

And by some good luck, he slipped through the encirclement and narrowly escaped from death.

“O- orges, and 50, you say!?”

Symil’s group was shocked.

An Orge is a high-grade variety that is stronger than an orc. Height averages at 3 meters, muscle strength also 1-2 times more. It’s the strongest monster around the area.
But since the intelligence didn’t differ from an orc, it was impossible for them to move in groups strategically.
The attacked man said that he thought it was nightmare that he saw, too.
It was that unnatural.

After we finished hearing the story, Snow pointed out:

“I think the wanted twin magicians are involved here. It’s the same modus operandi that I heard, there’s no mistake, I think.”

Twin magicians—an identical pair of twin magicians who were peculiar for using fear to bind monsters to submission and organizing them to attack. They were highly skilled as magicians, and when the two attacked together their, magic power resonated and could temporarily launch an A-minus-level attack.
They were infamous magicians who had bounties on their heads.

If so, then it was a Level IV-class adventurer’s job.

As Symil’s group probably knew the twin magicians, they became restless and trembled even more.

“F- fifty orges controlled by those twin magicians! It’s at the level where you have to return to the highway and dispatch Dragon-Kingdom knight’s order as soon as possible, isn’t it?”
“But maybe there still are survivors. I think we should first scout and see the situation.”

Symil became irritated at my suggestion and glared at me.

"As if there are any survivors!"
"But if you leave like this, people who leave from the mining town like this man will be attacked again, you know."
"So what! Isn't getting ourselves to safety the first priority here? We don't know when will we get attacked, so we have to get out of here right now!"
"I'm saying that since we have to get a grip of what the current situation is, it's also for the sake of getting ourselves to safety."

My opinion and Symil's were the complete opposite.
Naturally, our lines of sight turned to the employer Gomugo.
He averted his eyes and wiped the sweat that was streaming down from his forehead.

"I'm just a layman about adventurer quests. I think I'll let you professionals decide here."

He left all the decision-making to us.

I sighed and gave a compromising proposal.

"Then first my group will take the role of scouting. If we still haven't come back after 3 hours, then you can go back to the highway. If there is problem, we will give smoke signals; at that time, please retreat immediately."
"….if you wanna do that, then go ahead; be my guest."

Symil's group also wanted information for their survival.
If we took the dangerous scouting duty, then it would probably be just what he wanted anyway.

The employer, Gomugo, also agreed with this decision.
After getting their permission, Snow and I immediately got back to our wagon.

I gave explanations to Chrisse and Xiah while moving, giving instructions to remove the horned horses from the wagon and put the saddle on.
Both of them started preparing without asking for the reason.

After removing the horned horses from the wagon, Xiah put the rein

and saddle she brought just in case on them.
We had also already bought magic-prevention collars, as Xiah suggested.
I attached two collars to the belt.

I took the removed pouch and fixed it to an easy-to-handle position with the ALICE clip.

After we were done preparing the horses, Snow rode one horse with Chrisse on the back.
Xiah and I rode the other one, as I sat on the back.

Snow and Xiah were experienced in horse-riding, so I let them ride.
Me and Chrisse clung to their backs.

While we let the horses run with great haste, I explained the situation to Chrisse and Xiah.

In addition—that our objective this time is only scouting.
We decided that if there were survivors, we would aid them.
If we felt it was dangerous, we would still prioritize ourselves and retreat–even if there were survivors, for example.

At first, Snow and Chrisse were reluctant, but I wanted to prioritize their safety over anyone else's.
I expressed that feeling, convincing them not to be reckless.
Even if we said we wanted to save people, there's no meaning if were to die in doing so. The enemies were Level IV class. No matter how cautious we were, we wouldn't overdo it.

And we kept galloping for about 30 minutes, and in a little, we arrived at the targeted open ground.

"This is terrible…"

I got off the horned horse and looked around.
The open ground we intended to camp on was about the size of a school ground.
5, no, 6 wagons were destroyed like they met a tornado. Wheels and axles were broken, wagons were on their sides, and the canopies were full of holes.

But the mystery here was that there was not even one corpse.
The cargo on the wagons as well were almost gone.

Xiah held her AK47 in one hand, carefully observing the traces and footprints that were on the ground.

"…..Looks like the horned horse and human corpses were taken, as well as the cargo. I think the chance that the twin magicians were involved is high, as madam Snow predicted."
"I could understand if it's cargo, but even human and horned horse's corpses?"
"It's food for the ogres. Ogres are unintelligent so terror and reward — in this case it's food, if they are given food then they will obey. It's the method the twin magicians usually use."

I understand what Xiah was saying.
In other words, "*carrot and stick* ," huh.
They took the merchant's cargo for themselves and gave corpses for orges and monsters. Efficiency shitheads .

"They just attacked their prey, so we can probably pass through this main road safely. But if it's just now, then there are still a lot of their traces left, so it wouldn't be hard to find their hideout … What do we do, young master?"

Xiah spoke in a manner like there was something she wanted to say.
Not just Xiah, but Snow and Chrisse also had a strong light in their eyes.
Of course, I can't stand this wickedness before my eyes either.
The enemies were 50 ogres and 2 magicians. To be honest, they were strong enemies.
But if it was us, then we could probably do it. If it seemed dangerous, then we would fight from afar, shower them with bullets with the AK and decrease their numbers while retreating.

I turned around to face the girls.

"Okay then let's find their hideout and strike them."

They were all fired up at this decision.

Eyes burning with anger, I declared.

“–Alright! It’s battle time”

Chapter 061 – Twin Magicians

After I got the okay for the hideout attack from the girls, I immediately prepared.
I thought about tying the horned horses' rein to a tree, but there was the danger of them getting attacked by the other monsters, so I let them be.

I change the AK47's safety switch to semi-automatic.
I pulled the cocking handle to load a cartridge into the chamber.

Chrisse also pulled the bolt back and forth.
She pushed the 7.62mmx51 NATO cartridge into the chamber.

Everyone tied the combat boots' laces tightly again, checked the condition of the combat protectors, and wore the eye-protection gear.

"Formation is the same as we practiced, Shia is the vanguard, then Snow and I, and at the back is Chrisse. This time, the objective is locate the twin magicians' current hideout and suppress the enemies. Try your best to not fight the monsters that we will probably meet; take detour if you can, because it'd be bad if the enemies were to hear the gunfire."
"Leave it to me. I'll advance the chosen road with the least possible chance to meet monsters. Moreover, when push comes to shove, I'll just kill them silently with my knife."

Shia nodded and tapped the knife that was hanging from her hips 2 and 3 times.

"This time, I plan to defeat those magicians so that there won't be anymore victims, but if there are survivors, then we will prioritize saving them. But of course, our safety is still the first priority."

I wanted to create the Legion corps to save troubled people or people in need of help for the future.
I haven't reached the level required to set one up yet, but regardless of that, I reconfirmed with everyone that we would come to help if there were people in trouble or people who were looking for help.

Snow and the others nodded, showing their agreement.
I had truly good wives and friend.
I nodded back and signaled.

"Then we're going."

With that as the starting signal, everyone pushed through to the center of the forest.

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With her proud [I can't be caught in a surprise attack, even in the forest at night] remark, Shia, on lookout duty, noticed the presence of monsters before anyone else, and with the support of Body Strengthening on her body, she brought them down with knives (probably out of consideration to avoid disturbing everyone's sleep with gunshot sounds, since it was late at night).

She had a much higher presence-sensing ability than the rest of us.
That did not apply only to monsters; it was also useful on pursuers or traps.

She immediately found the trap.
A metallic bear trap.

"Did a hunter living near here set up this trap?"
"I can't say for sure who set this up, but a live body caught in this would easily get its leg crushed. Take care to step only on where my footprints are, okay?"

Following Shia's indication, we walked around the trap, taking care to not step outside of her footprints.
We went further ahead and found a clapper linked to a tied string.

If you got caught on the string, the clapper would sound—or so they pretend, but this one's a dummy. A real magic boundary had been set up. It was the same type as the one that was triggered we broke into the Vlad house.

Looking at the clapper, it seemed to be a trap to get us caught in the magic boundary, as it was set up in a difficult-to-see location.

“I’ll acknowledge their efforts, but the clapper’s positioning is too obvious. They might as well be advertising that [we are hiding another trap].”

Shia cracked an insult as if she was some kind of critic and defused the magic boundary in under three minutes.
Even for Snow, it still took over 5 minutes, as expected from her.

“Since the magic boundary is there, their hideout must be nearby. Everyone, brace yourselves.”

Snow and the girls each gave their responses.
We went further into the forest.

While we were on this search, we didn’t encounter any monsters.
Had the monsters already been hunted to exhaustion by the ogres, too?
It *was* convenient for us.

About 30 minutes later—50 meters from where we were–the forest gave way to a spreading empty land.
It was approximately half as wide as the open space from earlier.
There was a cave in there, and beyond that, it was overgrown in more trees.

At roughly the middle of the empty land, there was a bonfire, where ogres were deliciously eating corpses and dead-horned horses.

They numbered about 41-42.
It didn’t reach 50.

“…….!”

Chrisse covered her mouth.
It must’ve been a horrible sight for her, who had the best eye out of the people here.
But we couldn’t afford not to scout it out.

The side of the cavern was stacked with what looked to be pillaged cargo.
Two people covered entirely in totally magician-looking robes were

checking the contents of the cargo while having a friendly chat.

Those two were probably the twin magicians.
We checked for survivors again.
There was a woman bound and gagged, trembling beside the cargo.
No doubt that she was a surviving merchant.

Because of the distance, I couldn't discern anything other than that she was a woman with my eyesight.
Her age was probably slightly over 20.

The men forcibly made the woman stand and then disappeared inside the cavern.

(*Those sleazebags…!*)

I could clearly imagine what was going to happen to that woman after seeing this.
There was no time. I immediately drafted a plan.

We brought our heads together and spoke in quiet whispers.

(First I'll take the left, Snow and Shia will take the right, and we'll clear the ogres away. Chrisse, go right in front of the cavern entrance where you can see inside. If the men took the woman hostage, make them eat 7.62 mm.)

Snow, Chrisse and Shia nodded with a serious look.

We all spread out to the left and right.
I did call it *spread out* , but we were separated for no more than 10 meters.
We took up positions away from the front of the cavern in order to ensure Chrisse's firing line.

Looking towards Chrisse, she took up a pose on her knees—a kneeling-shooting position.

I changed over from semi-auto to full-auto mode.
I raised my left hand to where everyone could see, and I started counting.

5, 4, 3, 2, 1—

“Go!”

By supporting our bodies with Body Strengthening, Snow, Shia and I jumped out from the thickets and opened fire on the ogres while they were huddled around the bonfire.

[**!!!!!!!!???????**]

The ogres turned their heads toward us in surprise.
But they were too late.
With me from the left and Snow & Shia from the right, we fired, making the shape of the letter X.
The ogres momentarily hesitated on which way to turn, and because of that, they were defenseless and fell prey to a mountain load of 7.62mm Russian shot.

But because of their robustness that’s superior to orcs, they didn’t die easily even after receiving those.

[**OOOOO** oO**OOOOOOOO** oO**OOO** !!!!]

They roared even as they took a shot or two and charged towards me.

I strengthened my body—my eyes in particular.
Just like how I once defeated the goblins, I changed my aim to their heads.

I had overwhelming firepower, unlike with the revolver.
Because of the great power, the ogre’s thick skull was smashed on a direct hit to the head, splattering grey matter everywhere.
The magazine change was also smooth and without pause.

Just when I used up the second magazine, the ogres that were coming to attack me had been annihilated.
Likewise, Snow and Shia also defeated theirs.
Timewise, it all took under one minute.

—silence fell.

We installed fresh magazines taken from our magazine pouches and turned the muzzle towards the cavern's entrance.
Snow, Shia and I nodded to one another and slowly walked, encircling the cavern's entrance.

Three more minutes passed, and the two magician-looking men from earlier showed up with the woman as hostage.
Each had the left and right halves of their faces tattooed in black ink.
If you brought them together, they would make single pattern.

Other than the tattoos, their faces and stature were identical.
These two men were now unmistakably identified as the twin magicians.

The man with tattooes on the right half of his face held a knife at the woman, using her as a shield.
The woman didn't seem to have been raped; but her face was swollen, likely because of being hit.

"Who the hell are you!? How did you take down all these ogres without even using magic!?" x2
The men asked in unison.
"It doesn't matter who we are, does it? Rather than that, it's you—- wait, we don't know your names yet."
"To not know about us—ignorance is sin! We are the twin magicians who are famous 'round this neighborhood; when the two of us use our magic together, our power rises! Now you'd do well to see our magic and carve our names to your souls as it—gaaaah" x2

—BANG!

"Gya**aaa** ah!"

The enemy's speech was answered with bullets.

Chrisse fired the M700P, hitting the shoulder of the man who was holding the hostage with a [7.62mm×51 NATO bullet]
As the hostage slipped away and the man became dumbfounded, one of his legs was shot.

"GU**AAAA** AH!!!"

The two men agonized because of pain they had never felt before.
Chrisse relentlessly fired one more bullet at each of the men.

I raised my hand, signalling her to stop.
Together with Shia, we rushed up to the agonizing men and kicked them in the jaw.
The two men lost their consciousnesses quickly.

Their legs and shoulders were bleeding heavily; the bullets have pierced right through.
We attached our magic-prevention collars precautiously and tied them up.
Afterwards, Shia treated their shoulders and legs.
Here, we could take it easy and not kill them. Because we could take them back alive, they could be dragged out before the law and make up for their crimes.

Snow rushed over to the cowering woman and called her.
She took out a knife and cut the rope binding her arms.

“Please be at ease, we’re here to help. The monsters have all been exterminated, so you’ll be alright.”
“T-, ttttt-, thank y—”

Overcome with fear, the woman must have found it hard to say her thanks while she was shivering.
Snow paid it no mind, as she offered her a canteen and rubbed her back to calm her down. Then she applied healing magic on her face.
Thanks to the healing magic’s power, the bruises on her face cleanly disappeared.

After making sure of her state, I waved to Chrisse.
She came along to check whether there are any more survivors, then I gave everyone instructions.

“Shia, you go back first and tell Gomugo-san and the others that everything’s fine. When you’re there, take a horned horse and come back here. We’re going to be carrying these twin magicians with us. Chrisse and I will check the perimeter for any more survivors. Snow will stay next to her until she calms down.”

Having received their instructions, everyone started to move.
Thus we were able to safely rescue the woman and successfully capture the object of reward, the twin magicians.

Chapter 062 – Arrival at Mining Town Vesta

We were waiting in front of a cave, which was the Twin Magicians' hideout, for Shia to come back from calling Gomugo and the others.
To assure them that we did defeat the magicians, Shia brought with her ornaments belonging to them and a portion of the goods the merchants were dealing in.

We tied up the defeated magicians, blindfolded them, and put them to sleep.
Just in case, we separated the two and restrained them in different locations.
The woman we saved was tired and thus was sleeping with her head on Snow's lap.

Even while she was lending her lap, Snow kept her ears listening in all directions.
Chrisse was watching out all around her, just like Snow.

I left the girls with the lookout and went collecting the Ogre fangs to exchange for rewards.
With a knife, I cut off the long canines at the root one ogre at a time.

There were also unrecoverable ones, having been smashed by an AK-47's 7.62mm Russian Shot rounds.

Once I roughly finished, I went back to Snow and Chrisse.
The fangs were put in a leather bag that was hanging from my waist.
I joined the girls on the lookout.

"But we were able to kill them more easily than expected, huh?"

While keeping vigilant, I started some small talk.
I gave an impression of how we fought for real this time.

"Could it be that we're, like, pretty strong ?"
"Yeah, I think we're pretty strong, especially since Chrisse-chan's sniper rifle is a menace to magicians.They can't sense magic from it at all, and it

has enough attack power to give an instant death from over a long distance. You're almost at a certain-death level as a magician-killer."
[Lute-oniichan and Snow-oneechan are strong, too.]

Chrisse wrote on the mini-blackboard, while she was embarrassed.

It's true even now that as long as the number is reasonable, we can take most of the opponents down easily.
But personally, I wanted a little more firepower.

(When this quest is over, maybe I should make a squad-support weapon .)

While I was idly thinking, Shia returned with a horned horse in tow.

"Shia, thanks for the hard word. How's Gomugo-san and everyone?"
"Thanks to the merchants cargo that young master told me to bring along, I was able to make them believe easily."
"That's good then. Are Gomugo-san and everyone coming to this open ground ?"
"Yes, they've come with me. They were extremely shocked when they heard the news of us defeating the Twin Magicians."

Maybe Shia recalled the faces of those guys when they heard her report or something, because the corner of her mouth raised as she grinned to herself.
It looked like she had a lot of fun.
If I could have, I'd like to see it too.

"Understood. Well, then what are we even waiting for? Let's go!"

We woke the woman up and had her walk with us.
I loaded the group of defeated magicians onto the horse's back like luggage.

After I had Shia burn away the corpses of the ogres, we returned to the open ground where Gomugo-san was waiting.

The woman we rescued met with the merchant who informed us of the danger, then she bursted out crying.

Probably from the relief of seeing an acquaintance's face.

Her clothes were dirty, so we gave her Snow's, who has a similar physique.
We also gave her hot water and a towel to wipe herself, and we suggested to her to change her clothes inside of our wagon.

The merchant tried to reward us with money, but we declined.
We didn't do it, because we wanted a reward or something.

Also, their cargo was still left in front of the cave, but we could only leave it by then.
That's because we didn't have the wagons and people to transport it.

The merchant seemed to be returning to his home in the Mining Town Vesta for the moment.
For the time being, we put the woman we rescued on our wagon to carry her.
The Mining Town is about one day away from here.
We did have lots of space, and our group was an all-girl gang besides me, so she shouldn't have been on guard.

However, we of course couldn't set off right away and thus made camp for the day as we have planned.
The Twin Magicians were kept bound on different locationsand surrounded by earth walls made with magic just in case. Furthermore, we used magic to put them into a state of deep sleep.
With this, they weren't expected to wake up for two days.

Gomugo-san went about as usual, and we told him that we'll do the night watch, too.
It'd be troublesome later on if we owned something to the type of people like Symil.

Symil took the trouble to come to our camp and make some late excuse, like "Hmph, looks like they're weaker than rumoured. Even we could defeat them ourselves."
It was a pain in the ass to deal with, so I just ignored him.

The next day.

We finally arrived at Mining Town Vesta safely.

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Mining Town Vesta is as the name says, a town that mines for ores.
It seemed that they mined a whole variety of ores; there was black smoke rising here and there and men with developed muscles passing by.

Because we arrived during the evening, I wanted to stop by the livery stable and go straight to the inn — but there was no way we could do that.

First, we parted with the woman we rescued and the merchant here.
Seems they had acquaintances they can depend on.
I was given a bunch of thanks in the end.

We promised to meet with Gomugo the morning 3 days later in front of livery stable, then we parted.

Next, we headed to the guild to hand over the captured Twin Magicians.
They were wanted by the guild, after all.

"Lute-kun, let me carry one person ?"
[I'll help too]
"No, madams. Please leave it to this servant."

The wives and Shia offered to help carry the two guys, but…

"It's okay, I can carry these guys alone."

There was no way I could have let my dear wives and Shia, who is also a girl, embrace and carry these trash bags.
I had to show my manly spirit here and whip my tired body – the result of not having been used to moving via a wagon.
With Body Strengthening magic, I heldboth of the ropes tied to the guys on each side, then I recklessly lifted them up and walked.

Luckily, the two guys were already put to sleep, so they weren't struggling; and since the distance between the stable and the guild was short, we managed to arrive before my magic ran out.

A person in charge of the guild confirmed their looks and special traits.
It looked like there was no mistake that the captured guys are the infamous Twin Magicians.
100 gold coins per guy — it's about 10-million yen.

We got 200 gold coins in one go.

Level II and III adventurers completed a Level IV quest, but because it was so sudden, we kept silent about it.

As we were not used to traveling, camping, and night watch — except for Shia — we were defeated by the fatigue and thus we stayed at the high-grade inn inside the guild for that day.
We got 2 rooms for Shia, and Snow, Chrisse and I.

After we finished dinner in our rooms, we immediately went to bed.
It has been a while since traveling for quests that I got to stay under one roof with my two cute wives, but as expected, there was no drive at all.

I fell into the bed being sandwiched by Snow & Chrisse. With cute wives in my arms and their sweet smells, I dived into a peaceful slumber.
In the end, we slept into afternoon of the next day like we were dead.

Chapter 063 – Sightseeing at Mining Town Vesta

"……(Fu)gaa~"

As I opened my eyes, I made a stupid sound.
By seeing the faintly leaked light from the slatted shutter, I knew that the sun had risen up.

I raised up my head to that faint light, which confirmed the sleeping figures in Snow and Chrisse who were using my arms as pillow substitutes.

On my right arm was Snow.
Maybe because she untied her ponytail, her atmosphere and impression felt different than usual–changed from an energetic feeling to a quiet one. The two sides of Snow were both charming to me.

On my left arm was Chrisse.
Rather than using my arm as a pillow, her head was almost rested on my chest while she was sleeping. I've become a hugging pillow. Her sleeping face was more childish than usual, and her absolutely at-ease expression was lovely.

I took out my hands gently as to avoid waking them up, but —

"Lute-kun?"
"Onii, chan ."
"…… Good morning to both of you."

As expected, it's impossible.
In the first place, rather than saying they were asleep, they were closer to dozing off, it seemed. That's why they realized my movement and woke up.

Because we already woke up, we raised our bodies and got out of the bed.
By the time I opened the windows, the sun was already at its peak, and the street was already active.

"Looks like it's already past noon."
"Can't be helped, because it's been a while since we could sleep properly without worrying about night watch."
[It is just as Snow-oneechan says.]

But the departure was only two days away…
Until then, we had to buy the necessary food, which is consumables for a 5-day travel to the capital, and load them onto the wagon. We couldn't just around in the room all day like this.

"First, let's meet up with Shia, have late breakfast and lunch at the same time, then go shopping in preparation for tomorrow."

My two wives agreed with this proposal.

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We met up with Shia, who stayed in the room next door.
I told her, "Let's go buy the necessary things before the day after tomorrow, then –"

"If it's just that, then I will do it. Young master, madams, please take it easy."
"But, to leave it all to Shia is …"
"What are you saying? I'm the young master's servant; if you say it like that, then I'll lose my face, you know?"

It's like the president does the same work together with employees, huh?
It's true that if that happens, the employee will be put in an awkward situation.

I accepted her offer and gave her money. I gave her more than enough, just in case.
While I was at it, I also told her that it's okay to buy anything that she likes.

Shia shook her head in a reserved manner, but I still had a lot of money from the Twin Magicians' bounty.
That's why I told her not to mind it.

And as if we were free for the day, we decided our plans for the day while having a meal in the bar-cum-cafeteria on the 1st floor.
It'd be a waste to stay in the room, so we decided to go sightseeing around Mining Town.

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I walked around Mining Town arm in arm with Snow and Chrisse.
There were lots of young muscular men, maybe because it was a mining town.
They emitted a clear killing intent when seeing me walk arm in arm with two cute girls.

I know how you feel.
If I were in your shoes, I would yell [Real-lifers should just explode!] in my head, too.

"Hey hey Chrisse-chan, isn't this pendant cute?"
[Yes, it's very cute. This ring is, too.]

There were common shops in the mining town, but there were also lots of open-air ones where they sold by the roadside on a spread-out cloth.
The local specialties, such as metal accessories, blades, and metal ornaments, were laid out in large numbers. It seemed that they were put on display by young artisans wanting to raise their skills and earn pocket money.
Like a flea market in my previous life.

The open-air stall where we stopped by was one like a silver-accessory shop in my previous life, which was staffed by a young craftsman who was lining up his own work for sale.

The young Dragon Race artisan put up a businesslike smile.

"Please feel free to hold it in your hand. I definitely won't force you to buy it."

Receiving the offer, Snow and Chrisse let go of my arm and looked at them earnestly.
Meanwhile, I stood there like a scarecrow and waited for them until they

were done. This is another one of a husband's resourcefulness.

While I was idly waiting for them, two merchant-like people passed by my side.
I inadvertently heard their conversation.

"Oi, don't you think it's been strange lately in the outskirts of town?"
"I do; I do. Especially since I haven't even seen ogres lately, much less small monsters. My family says "[Isn't this an omen for something strange?]"
"I hope it's nothing…"

The merchants spoke with worried faces and voices, then disappeared into the crowd.

(*You don't have to be so worried, since the Twin Magicians leading the ogres are no longer there.*)

Because the Twin Magicians gathered and organized ogres, the other monsters were hunted down in droves; the result is that they disappeared from the forest.
Since we've apprehended them, the forest will surely return to normality in time.

While I was thinking that, Snow came while carrying a simple pendant made of metal chains in her hand.
She stretched it over her neck to show me.

"What do you think, Lute-kun?"
"It suits you well. Matches your hair color."
"Ehehe, thanks."

My trousers were pulled, and I turned around.
Chrisse was putting golden earrings on her ears.
The earrings were not inlaid with gems or magic stones, but it was a beautiful type with detailed craftsmanship.

[What about me?]
"Chrisse's match you. too."
[Thank you very much.]

Being praised, Chrisse also blushed bashfully.

Snow seemed to like silver, simple ones, while Chrisse preferred golden, beautiful ones.
I jotted it down as a memo in my mind.

"They really fit you both. I'm sure the accessories would surely be happy too, to be worn by the two of you."

The youngster kept glancing at me.

"No, if they're worn by you two, then to the creator, there's really nothing happier than this."

He threw more glances at me.
I got it, I got it.
This is where I had to show my resourcefulness.

"I'll take this; how much for two ?"
"Thank you for your continued patronage! The actual price for one is 1 silver and 2 large copper coins; but because you want to buy 2, 2 silver coins will do."

About 20,000 yen, huh?
If I think of it as a fee to know their tastes, then it's cheap.

I handed 2 silver coins to the youngster.

I put the accessories on their ears and neck, and they smiled happily.

"Thanks Lute-kun, I'll treasure it."
[Thank you, onii-chan. I too will treasure it forever.]

Their smiles were *priceless* .
Then we got back to walking around the town.

We stopped by a place like a food market to take a break and eat snacks.
This town unexpectedly had as many sweets as the amount of muscular

guys there.

We ate the representative of all the sweets: the steamed bun.
Uncooked dough that got mixed with beans that have been cooked with sugar and then steamed. It's similar to steamed bread and steamed cake in my previous world .

"This is the first time I'm eating this. The sweet beans are delicious."
"Snow, you're okay with sweet beans?"
"Yeah, I'm okay."

She looked okay as she said and kept eating heartily with a happy face.
In the previous world, I heard that there is no concept of sweet beans overseas and that there are people bad with them, so they can't eat Japan's red-bean paste.

"Chrisse, how is it? Delicio– Chrisse?"

I stopped talking midway and stared at Chrisse without thinking.
She wore a serious expression, like a researcher dealing with an dangerous object, while eating the steamed bun.

[Indeed, the sweetness of the bean compensated for the dullness of the dough. But I think instead of just adding sugar to the bean, it would be even more delicious if we also added salt and such to make the sweetness stand out. On a scale of 10 points, I gave this 5.24 points.]
"I.. I see."

The points are detailed!
As expected of the demon race.
The race that loves sweet to the point of boasting, "Wheat is not used for bread; it's used to make cake."
She even hired Malcom-san, the exclusive chef, just to make sweets.
Maybe because of that, she's dead-serious about sweets and snacks.

Her eyes spoke "Sweets aren't a game."

I've done well currying favour from this master with sweets ….

After we were done eating steamed buns, we went back.
Because the sun was about to set.
We planned to have dinner at the same place we had lunch: the inn's first floor.
Lunch was delicious there, so I guessed that there would be no problem.

"Ah, my bad. I forgot to ask Shia for one necessary thing for tomorrow. It's fine to do it tomorrow, but I'll just go buy it and come back quickly, so won't you go back first ?"
[Then let's go buy together.]
"No, it's really nothing important. I'm fine alone. So you two go back, first."
"If you say so, Lute-kun."

As they turned their heads to look back at me, I pushed their backs forcefully, urging them to go back to the inn.
I wish I could have fooled them a little better, but I had no talent in the art of conversation.

After I sent them off, I headed to a shop, which I guessed was the precious metal shop, during the sightseeing in the afternoon.

The goal was the marriage bracelets for them.

Currently, the marriage bracelets they're wearing are plain ones I made from magic liquid metal. But as expected, I couldn't have accepted those as marriage bracelets myself.

Of course those two were satisfied with just that…
So this was completely for my own indulgence.

I secretly took quests alone from the guild and saved up money.
A total of 6 gold coins — about 600,000 yen.
In short, it's about the same cost of making two wash toilets.

1 item was only 3 gold coins, so it was probably fine for display.

On the outside, the shop was about as big as a convenience store; but it was prettier than other shops, so it left an impression.
After I passed through the door, an old Dragon Race clerk with complete

white hair welcomed me.

"Welcome. How can I help you?"
"I want to give my two wives marriage bracelets; can you show me some?"
"For a wife ? 2 even ? Now that's some manliness."

The old clerk smiled pleasantly after he heard "2 wives."
He looked like a good guy.
I told him my budget and their preferences, then I had him show me a few.

Snow's taste is silver color, simple design.
Chrisse's taste is gold color, fancy design.

Among the ones shown to me, there were two that caught my attention.
Snow's was a simple, silver bracelet inlaid with bluish-white magic stones and gems.
Chrisse's was a fancy design made up of small gold chains, attached with red magic stones and gems.

Each of the magic stones had already been charged to be able to fire magic once.
The old clerk recommended it, saying that they'll be happy with magic-stone-equipped bracelets that have practical use, since this is a dangerous world.

It's certainly practical, and the design seemed to be something they'd like.
Furthermore, since they're also marriage bracelets, they come with bracelets for the man with the same design, so at 3 gold coins a pair, they were well within my budget.

The man's bracelets were only treated as accessories, so they didn't come with magic stones or gems. They were just plain marriage bracelets.
But those two would probably like these.

"These ones, please."
"Thank you very much. We'll throw them in this case as a bonus."

I took the old clerk on his offer and accepted the case.

I handed over the 6 gold I saved to the clerk.

After about a few minutes later, he handed me the bracelets in something that looked like paulownia boxes.
I firmly secured them in my pocket so that those two wouldn't find out.

"I hope you bring your wives along next time."
"Yes, absolutely. I'll take them along next time."

I once again said my thanks and then left the shop.

Timewise, it took me about one hour. Anymore and I'd have been worrying them.
As dusk drawn closer, I hurriedly went through the alleyway, heading back to the inn.
As I walked, I lightly tapped the marriage bracelet inside the pocket.

"Guess I will give it to those two after finishing this quest. No, I might as well throw a surprise party and give these to them when I get back home, I guess?"

Thinking about Snow's and Chrisse's surprised and delightful faces, I couldn't help but grin.

A good and peaceful day.
However at that time, I thought not even in my wildest dream that we would fall in such a predicament.

Chapter 064 – Small Magic Stone

We departed from Mining Town Vesta on the next day, just before noon.
I had guessed it was about 10 in the morning.

The road on this side was clear of forestry, as it exposed part of the mountainside bare.
The lumber was probably used as fuel or material.

But after an hour of traveling passed, it led to a pathway that went through the woods.
We were on the back of the merchant caravan, as we kept watch all around.
We might have been lucky, but we managed to have a peaceful journey without encountering a single monster.

The first problem happened on the second day after we left the mining town, when we reached a camping ground.

When we reached it, we noticed that there were two or three destroyed wagons in horrible state.

We got down from the wagon and checked the situation.

"Oi oi, so there's someone like the Twin Magicians on this side, too?"
"Probably not humans but monsters. See this? These are bite marks. It's likely from a day ago."

Shia made her guess from the state of the wagons.

"Oi, you lot, there might still be monsters looming to hurt us as we go forward, so we're going out to exterminate them right away. Don't interfere."

Symil said so and led his group.

"They're Level II and have still done it. We Level III ranks should be able to do it with ease."

Looks like since we defeated the Twin Magicians and Orges too easily, they were under the misunderstanding that even they could do it.
And their eyes were radiating for the reward money.

"I'm just saying, but we have A- and B+ magicians; that's why we were able to defeat them. Your no-magician 3-man group better not be reckless."
"Annoying! Shut up! I won't let you snatch my prey! You lot shut up and wait here!"

Like that, Symil's group made a disastrous scene and disappeared into the forest to search for the monsters.

"Lute-kun, what do we do ?"

Looking back, I saw that Gomugo and everyone were looking at me with anxious faces.
Since Symil's group has already went in, we had to ensure their safety.

"Until they return, you should be ready to move at any time. Snow and Chrisse, protect Gomugo-san, and Shia and I will go around to check the surroundings to see if there are any survivors."

Everyone replied to me and proceeded to carry out my instructions.
In the worst case that they wouldn't return by tomorrow morning, we might have to have spent one night there. And thus we maybe would be better off discussing rotation nightwatch by then with just us.

I silently decided that I would discuss it later while we were eating dinner or something.

Shia and I, with full equipment and AK47, went around checking for the damage and survivors.

We went one round around the forest near the open ground, but there was nothing we had to be specially vigilant for.
Not even survivors' footprints or traces.

We went back to the open ground and signaled to Snow & Chrisse that

there was no problem.
The girls then said to Gomugo's still-anxious group, "looks like no danger in the surroundings," as their faces relaxed a little.

Next, Shia and I confirmed the conditions of the destroyed wagons.
They were common wooden wagons.
Axles were broken, and even the wheels were broken in half.
Even an amateur could tell that repair was impossible.

The loaded cargo was safe, it seemed.
The contents seemed to be raw materials that were bought from Mining Town Vesta.
Just by one look, we couldn't tell if it was iron ore, precious metal, or something else.

"……."

Shia stared seriously at the wreckage of the destroyed wagons with a stern expression.
With one knee on the ground, she picked up something that looked like a jigsaw puzzle.

"…….Young master, look at this."
"Which one?"

Thereupon being told so, I went next to her and took a look.
It was one part of the wagon that she has been fiddling with since a while ago.

"Here, do you see these sharp bite marks?"

Certainly just like Shia point out, there were marks to suggest that it was bitten by sharp fangs.

"I see. So what's the problem?"
"Young master, look closely. This is the same part of the wagon, yet the bite marks are this close to each other; it's like they intentionally bit them a second time next to the first one. Why do you think they would purposely do so?"
"Maybe it was done by a monster. I mean, there's no way I would know."

"Also, these burn marks……if my guess is right, it's something very bad."
"Something bad as in, this disastrous scene was caused by a dragon or something?"

Indeed, there were bite marks and burn marks.
I was kinda sure that it was attacked by a group of Orges and other monsters. The burn mark, too, came from the lamp, or so I thought.

"Could it be have been red dragons ?"

Red dragon is the representative of monsters, the generic dragon that has wings, flies in the sky, and spews flames.
Very rarely will one or two red dragons stray away from the herd and attack the town or country.

Defeating red dragons was one of the requirements to create a legion.
And in the demon continent and other continents, there were varieties superior to red dragons.

"No, my guess is more than th–!?"

Not only Shia and I reacted.
Everyone here shuddered, too.

A roar echoed from afar.
It was from something absolutely strong.

The direction the voice came from aligned with the direction Symil's group went in.
After I put myself on guard for a while, the ground trembled and I heard the sound of trees falling down.
I unconsciously broke a cold sweat and swallowed my saliva.
I flipped the safety switch off my AK-47.
It shifted to full automatic.
I pulled the cocking handle and loaded a cartridge into the chamber.

Not only me but Shia and Snow & Chrisse also.

The ground-trembling distance got closer.
From the forest, I saw silhouettes of people running for their lives.
It's Symil!

He's soaked with sweat and tears that were flowing, and he was holding his right arm.
The right hand that held the proud sword was gone.
While holding it with his left hand, he ran back here with a pale face.

"He- eeelp!"

Instantly…
His upper body was then decimated.
Blood spurt out from his lower half of the torso, and it twitched violently as it fell over.

"!!!"

I bit down my lips and averted my eyes from the overly shocking scene.

"Young master, you can't look away. We don't know what will come next."
"So..sorry. But–!"

Due to that overly miserable death, I felt something sour coming up my throat.
I held it back and lift my face up.

In an instant, the monster that ate Symil leapt into the sky.

[OoOooooooOOoOooOooooO!!!]

Dancing high in the sky, it roared as if to intimidate us.
Its overall length is about 10 meters.
Sharp scales that seemed that they would cut your hand if touched were covered all over its body, and its wide wings on its back let it fly freely in the sky.
And there was the different trait from normal dragons — 2 heads , it once again emitted a roar that would rumble even your core.

[OoOooooooOOoOooOooooO!!!]

"Hey hey hey, what the hell is that …"

I raised my voice unintentionally.
Shia whispered with an unpleasant face.

"Looks like my prediction is head-on. It's the red dragon's superior species: the twin dragon … "

Because the dragon was here, that must be why all the monsters disappeared!
I thought for sure it was because of the Twin Magicians and the Orges; I was mistaken.

As if we were answering to her, it landed on the ground in a position in front of us, and its two pairs of eyes fixed in on us.

"–! Snow, Chrisse! You two evacuate Gomugo-san's group! Shia and I will shoot it to attract its attention!"

On my command, the girls moved out.

Bang! Bababababababababang!

I unloaded the AK47's full auto.
But I couldn't even do so much as put a scratch on the scales of that monster called the twin dragon.
Even so, Shia and I still kept shooting to draw its attention.

One of the heads of the twin dragon looked at us like annoying pest and breathed in as if it was inhaling a large quantity of air.

"!? Young master! Breath incoming! Dodge!"
"…..!!"

A thunderous roar emitted from one of the twin dragon's head, then fire started coming out.
On Shia's point-out, I immediately enhanced my body with magic and

jumped away from that spot.

Its power is almost many times over the flamethrower in my previous world.
Its range was then known to be about 50 meters, because as we ran away, the two horned horses turned into living torches.

With great momentum, the horses fell; everything on the wagon fell out to the ground as well.
One barrel of magic liquid metal hit a tree trunk and got smashed up.
But there was silver lining in the dark cloud; the spare cartridge got thrown out too, and thus they didn't get burned by the flames.

"Lute-kun! Shia-san!"

As if answering to Snow's worried voice, both of the twin dragon's heads turned to look at her.
Gomugo-san's group was still in the middle of running into the forest.

"This damn skink lizard!"

I got furious at the twin dragons, which were baring its fangs at my wives.
I swapped the magazine to armor-piercing bullets and fired — but as expected, it was repelled by the scales, therefore, ineffective!

This time, the other head repeated the inhaling action.
Snow and everyone still haven't gotten into the forest. But considering the power of that flame, I don't even think the trees would block it even if they got in.

'As I thought, instead of personal equipment, I should have prioritized fire power, huh!?'

But it was then too late for regret.
I reached for the second armor-piercing ammo magazine.
My fingertip touched a different thing.
It was the prototype "frag grenade" for defense!

I pulled the grenade's pin with my teeth, as I was still clenching the

lever I used body-enhancing magic to support my body. I threw the grenade towards the nose of the twin dragon. The effective radius was 15 meters; Snow's group was farther away than that, so it wasnot dangerous.

An exploding sound.
At the same time, the twin dragon then roared in pain for the first time.

[OoOooooooOOoOooOoO!!!]

Its breath got pointed down to the ground and it suffered like it was self-destructing.
Luckily, the fragment crushed one of its eyes.

"Everyone! Escape to the forest without looking back! Don't look around; run to the very back of it!"

As I issued the command, we ran towards the forest with Shia and me as as the rear guard.
Midway, my leg kicked on the stuff scattered from the wagon.
As I recognized what it was, I reflexively picked it up.

"Young master! What are you doing!? Quick!"
"Sorry!"

After screaming due to the pain it received for the first time, the twin dragon fainted from it for a while and showed no action.
In the end, I heard a howl painted with hatred in the background.

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While the wagon was moving, I made hand grenades to kill time.
It's small equipment like protectors and sacks, … I thought I'd only make only one like other accessories, but to think that it'd be useful like this …

We ran into the forest and hid inside a cave we found.
Since the sun already set, we had to use magic to light up the inside the cave.
We carefully used plants to cover the cave as so to not let light leak out.

I switched the AK47's safety switch on and sat down to let my tired

body rest.
I wiped my sweat with my hand, and I got the canteen fixed by ALICE clip to my mouth.

"…..Do you think that if we hide here and the twin dragon can't find us, it will give up after a while and go away ?"
"Not happening."

It wasn't direct as to who was the addressee, but Shia replied in response.
She drank from the canteen, too, and wiped her mouth.

"Dragons in general have high pride. Wounded by an inferior being, that dragon definitely wouldn't give up on chasing until it has killed young master."

For real?
It's just like the Sankebetsu-bear incident at Hokkaido in my previous world.
That one too persistently chased humans, ate a number of them, and finally got hunted down … was it ?

As I was trying to remember the incident I vaguely have knowledge of, the client Gomugo started shouting.

"Y- ou imprudently wounded the dragon; because of that, we got chased into this awkward situation! Even the goods are lost, what are you going to do?!"

Other employees too were silently blaming me with gloomy eyes.

"……I think Lute-kun's decision was accurate. If he didn't use the exploding-magic tool that time, then we'd all have been roasted by the dragon's flames already. Do you still mind that ?"
"Gu…"

After hearing Snow's explanation, Gomugo and every one faced their blaming eyes downward.
Due to hearing Snow pointing out the fact, their heads must have cooled down a bit.

[Anyway, we should calm down and analyze the situation now.]
"That's right. Even if we blame each other now, nothing will come out of it. First, we gotta confirm the situation."

Snow, Chrisse, and Shia nodded.
Gomugo's group maintained silence to not get in the way.

"First, Shia, that is a twin dragon, right ? I remember you said it's a red dragon's superior species."
"That's right. It's a derivation of red dragon, two heads is the biggest distinction. It can alternately breathe flame, so it's vastly superior to red dragon. Originally, they lived in the back regions of the Demon continent, so it's unthinkable to see them appear in other continents like this…."

But it's a fact that the twin dragon is here.

Although its ability to breathe flames alternately is a problem.
But according to Shia, it's not like it can breathe flames infinitely.
After it breathed once, it can only breathe again after a certain amount of time has elapsed, it's a dragon's characteristic.

She continued the story.

"A silver lining in the dark cloud is that it's still only a youngling."
"Youngling? Like a child ?"
"Un. Thanks to that, its breath is still weak, and the scales shouldn't be that hard either."
"That was still soft, huh …"

It bounced armor-piercing bullet though ….

"Can't we do something with magic ?"
"U~n, I think it's useless. Dragon scales are hard that magic is hardly effective."

A-minus-rank magician Snow grumbled.
Now Snow asked me in return.

"Lute-kun, the exploding magic tool before — the hand grenade —

how about you make some more ? If we stealthily go back to the wagon and get the magic liquid metal, then you can do it, right ?"
"That is hard, too."

I showed her the small barrel I picked up.
It's one of the two spare barrels of magic liquid metal in the wagon.

The other one got thrown out of the wagon, then crashed into a tree trunk and got smashed to pieces thereafter.
This was the last one.
When it fell down, the lid got opened and the content got spilt out.

The amount left is about enough to make one more hand grenade; that's it.
Even if it hits, one hand grenade is probably is not going to be enough to bring down that twin dragon.

"Sorry to ask again, but is it really true that the chance it gives up on us is zero ? For example, if we hide in this cave for about one week, won't it give up by then ?"
"Unlikely. Even if we live in this cave for 1 month."

Shia declared.
More than one month is still ineffective, huh ….

"And in reality, staying in this cave is dangerous too, you know. If it sniffed us out and breathed into the cave only once, we, who don't have anywhere to run to, would become whole-roasted."

Gomugo's group shuddered up at the easy-to-understand scenario that Shia explained.

The situation was pressing, and it was a deadlock huh ….
The only saving grace was that the twin dragon was still young; compared to a grown one, it's relatively weak.

The cave was permeated by a gloomy air.
Sobbing voices came from Gomugo's female employees.
It looked like Gomugo's group has given up mentally.

Shia resolved herself and asked:

"…Anyone has magic stone ?"
"Magic stone? What will you use it for?"
"If you break the magic stone that holds magic power, it will cause a big explosion. I will take it down together with me."

In short, the same as kamikaze attack in my previous world huh.
I didn't know that magic stones had that special characteristic.

But I dunno if it's good luck or bad luck, nobody has a magic stone. Gomugo usually deals with it, but this time, he brought different goods.

"…..Understood. Then I will draw away that twin dragon till the last moment; in that time, everyone please run far away."
"I definitely won't allow that!"
[That's right! I can't do something like watching Shia-san get killed!]

Snow and Chrisse voiced their objections.
But Shia didn't change her mind.

"Thank you. But like this, then only death awaits everyone. Looking at it realistically, this is the best option. I am very happy about the madam's words."

The two of them went silent with painful faces.
Shia looked at me.

"Young master, please make one hand grenade with that magic liquid metal. If I let the hand grenade explode inside that twin dragon's mouth, then I can probably bring one of its heads down."
"I refuse. Shia's strategy is rejected."
"Even young master …. Please give up. There's no other way to save everyone! And please don't worry about me. Lastly, if you'd listen to my only request–"
"No no. Thanks to Shia, I got an even better strategy. That's why I want you to listen to me first."
"A strategy better than mine …?"

While listening to me, Shia blinked so many times that I lost count.

Not only her, but Snow and everyone also became round-eyed at my confident attitude.

"Lute-kun, Really?"
[As expected of Onii-chan!]

I took out the box with the surprise present inside that I bought at the mining town for the two of them.
Inside that box stored two small magic stones.

Exactly because of these small magic stones, I can make ***that*** (●●●●) .

"With this, I'll blow that skink lizard's brain beyond the stars."

Chapter 065 – Twin Dragon Extermination

I opened up the box lid, then I presented the bracelets to Snow and Chrisse.

"Not magic liquid metal bracelets, I've been secretly saving money to properly choose fitting bracelets for both of you."
"Lute-kun…"
[Onii-chan…]

While looking at each other, we took each others' hands.

"Young master, madams, please don't get lovey-dovey in this emergency situation."

With Shia's tsukkomi, I cleared my throat and continue talking.

"So, ehem. These bracelets each have a magic stone that can be used once. I'm planning to use them to defeat the twin dragon."
"However, I don't think it's possible to damage those hard scales with something this small."

Shia pointed it out while apologetically looking at the bracelet.
Don't say small! Even one of this size costs three gold coins apiece.
It's one wash toilet, you know! One wash toilet!

But as Shia said, these magic stones are indeed small.
Small enough to be balanced on the tip of a pinky finger.

"It's okay. On the contrary, I'll be troubled if it's any bigger. Because I will make [high-explosive incendiary rounds] out of these stones."
"High-explosive, incendiary rounds?"

Shia inquired with a bewildered face.
In english, it's called [explosive incendiary].

It's a 5.56mm cartridge made by Germany in WW2.

Inside the cartridge's bullet, there's a small piece of metal acting as a firing hammer; detonators and yellow phosphorus in turn get stuffed in. The inertia of the bullet's impact will cause the firing hammer to collide into the detonator and make it explode. Because of that, the incendiary mix (yellow phosphorus) will scatter and burn.

In other words, it's a bullet that explodes from the inside.

This time, the yellow phosphor will be replaced by the magic stones from the bracelets. Exactly what I needed, 2 pieces; it was really good that I bought them.

"With this, I will make [7.62mm x 51 High Explosive Incendiary Round] for the M700P. Chrisse, I want you to shoot through its eye socket; that will blow its head from the inside."

With her exceptional skill, I'm sure she can do it!
She nodded with a resolved expression.

[Got it. I'll do my best.]

Everyone nodded following Chrisse words, then I worked out the details of the strategy's outline.
After the strategy was decided, I immediately produced [7.62mm x 51 High Explosive Incendiary Rounds] with the remaining magic liquid metal.

After I finished making two rounds, I added a certain function to the knife as insurance.
This, too, is a borrowed idea from [7.62mm x 51 High Explosive Incendiary Round].
I made a prototypical bullet and knife on the spot.
I don't even have the luxury to test; I can only pray that it works well.

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Dawn——.

We were slightly away from the cave wherein we hid.
Snow, Chrisse, Shia were on top of a steep cliff.
Trees were behind them, while bare rock was at the front for peeking.

A cliff, so to say, but it's not that tall.

As expected, they objected going back to the place where we were attacked by the twin dragons.
Certainly, there is enough space there, but the scattered luggage could be a hindrance. So, we agreed to the Gomugo group's suggestion and chose a location that heightens our success rate.

While hugging her beloved gun, the M700P, Chrisse closed her eyes and severed her idle thoughts.
Snow and Shia stood next to her as bodyguards.

I hid in the bushes, where I could see the girls,so that I could attack the twin dragon from the back when the time is right.

"OoOooooooOOoOooOoO!!!"

"!, It came. Chrisse-chan, it came!"

Blocking half of the sun and flying through the trees behinds Snow group, the twin dragon showed itself.
A distinctive injury in one eye.
Certainly it's the dragon from yesterday.

The twin dragon's attack direction is limited because of the trees behind Snow group. It's inevitable that it will attack from the front
The prey followed the planned course!

"Madam, be prepared!"

Chrisse's throat vibrated to Shia's words.
To increase her concentration power, she sang the [Rifleman's Creed] song that I taught her.

「これぞ我がライフル。世に多くの似たものあれど、これぞ我唯一のもの
《This is my rifle. There are many like it, but this one is mine.》」

「我がライフルこそ、我が親友、そして我が命。我は己の命を

統べるかのようにそれを意のままとする
《My rifle is my best friend. It is my life. I must master it as I must master my life.》」

「我がライフルは我無くしては無意味。ライフルを持たぬ我も無意味。我は正しくライフルを解き放つべし。我は我を殺めんとする敵よりも正しくその身を射貫くべし。我は敵を撃つべし、敵が我を討つその前に
《My rifle, without me, is useless. Without my rifle, I am useless. I must fire my rifle true. I must shoot straighter than my enemy who is trying to kill me. I must shoot him before he shoots me. I will……》」

「我がライフルと我は知る、この戦争にて大切なものは、我々が放った弾丸、我々が起こした爆発音、我々によって作られた煙、その何れでも無いことを。我々は理解する――それは数発の命中であるということを
《My rifle and myself know that what counts in this war is not the rounds we fire, the noise of our burst, nor the smoke we make. We know that it is the hits that count. We will hit……》」

「我がライフルは我と同じく人である。それは我が命そのもの、そして我が兄弟。我は、その弱さ、その強さ、その部品、その付属品、その照準器、そして銃身――それら全てを知るであろう。我は我自身をそうするように、ライフルを清潔にし万全に保ち、我らは互いにその一部となる
《My rifle is human, even as I, because it is my life. Thus, I will learn it as a brother. I will learn its weaknesses, its strength, its parts, its accessories, its sights and its barrel. I will keep my rifle clean and ready. We will become part of each other. We will》」

「神の前に、我は我が信仰を誓う。我がライフルそして我は我が家の守護者なり。我々は敵を打ち倒す者、我が命の救済者なり
《Before God, I swear this creed. My rifle and I are the defenders of my family. We are the masters of our enemy. We are the saviors of my life》」

「そう、勝利は我々のもの。そして我々の勝利の後、敵なき世界が訪れるであろう
《So be it, until victory is ours and there is no enemy》」

Lately, Chrisse, who has been unable to speak because of bullying, could talk in front of us little by little.

To let her rehabilitate slowly, we didn't urge her on; she didn't even pick up the mini blackboard.

She is now singing "Rifleman's Creed" with her beautiful voice.

"OoOooooooOOoOooOoO!!!"

The twin dragons roared, overpowering Chrisse's fairy-like voice.
Then it let out a breath of fire from the head with the wounded eye.

In response to the incoming breath, Snow and Shia raised both of their hands and shouted loudly!

"Dragons of snow and ice, heed my call. Let a world of glaciers come forth before me! Permafrost!" x2

A composite magic of ice and water.
Snow and Shia cooperated and chanted magic.
Because Shia is weak at ice magic, the spell was limited to intermediate-level magic. But by combining the power of two people, they are able to defend against the dragon breath.
In the case of both heads attacking simultaneously, it's probably impossible to stop it.

However, the collision between the breath and ice magic created large quantities of steam.
Concealing the figure of twin dragon

"Suu~"

But, Chrisse was unconcerned and breathed in.

"Haa~"

Breathe out.
In an off-hand stance, the M700P gun's muzzle pointed toward the steam.
In an instant — the twin dragon which hated the steam flapped its wings.

With just one motion, the steam was blown off, but the opponent's movement was also suspended.

Like frost descending on a dark night… Chrisse squeezed the trigger.

BANG!

A bullet with an initial velocity of 838m/s, which is more than twice the speed of sound, had an impact like it was sucked into the eye socket of the twin dragon which wasn't releasing its breath.

"OoOooooooOOoOooOoO!!!"

Internal explosion!
A large quantity of blood poured out from the eyes, nose and mouth of the uninjured head of the twin dragon.
Unable to endure the pain, it violently slammed into the ground.

Chrisse pulled the bolt back and forth, releasing an empty case.

Snow immediately performed additional magic

"Gather ,O spirit of ice; dance and submerge that evil being into the ground! Freezing Ice Barrier!"

A composite binding magic of ice and water.
The ground sank, restraining the twin dragon's arm, wings, legs and neck within a lump of ice.
With this, Snow expended a considerable amount of magical power.
Sweat formed around her forehead, and she breathed roughly.

But, the enemy already used its breath once.
Continuous use is unlikely.
Furthermore, the ice-binding restricts its movement.

Our victory is assured!

"C- Chrisse-chan, I'll leave it to you!"

Chrisse nodded reassuringly to Snow, who was panting and soaked

with sweat.
Chrisse once again took her aim and squeezed the trigger.

[OoOooooooOOoOoooOoO!!!]
“!?” x3

Unexpectedly — the twin dragon breathed flames again.

“Madams! It’s dangerous!”

Shia supported her body with body-enhancing magic, hugged the tired Snow and the concentrating Chrisse, and jumped down the cliff to avoid the breath.

The flame engulfed the bullet and curved its trajectory, as it hit off the mark.
Then it exploded.

[OoOooooooOOoOoooOoO!!!]

The twin dragon put power into its limbs as if to escape from the binding.
Cracks appeared on the ice that bounded the dragon; I predicted it toonly last for a few more seconds.

“Like I’d let you!”

Before the dragon escaped from the binding, I jumped out from the bush to stop it.
I enhanced my entire body!
I used all my magic power and approached the dragon in one second.

I raised the knife over my head and jumped.

“Got it!”
[OoOooooooOOoOoooOoO!!!]

One second later, the twin dragon escaped from the ice-binding, then it repelled the knife, which was swinging down while aimed at its eye, with its forehead.

I couldn't endure the impact and thus let go of the knife.

The final trump card, which was the knife I made as an insurance, danced in the air.

'Shit! To think I made such a blunder at the end!'

As I was regretting letting go of the knife, a shadow flew past me overhead.
It's Shia!

Shia caught the knife that was spinning in the air!
Just like that, the knife pierced through the twin dragon's eye socket.

But, just the knife in the eye alone isn't much damage.
The knife blade is short, and there's no poison smeared on it either.
But the real thing started from there!

"Shia! Just like that press the switch on the knife!"
"Understood, young master!"

Recalling the way to handle the knife, which I taught everyone as insurance beforehand, Shia pressed the switch.
'Pashu!', a little dull sound like something flew out, the gas made with magic compressed inside the knife's handle propulsed, and it tore the inside of the head to shreds.
The twin dragon's head was destroyed from the inside,as blood spout out, it was completely dead.

As we realized the dragon has become completely silent, everyone flopped down from wherever they were.
We were completely exhausted from fatigue and using too much magic.

I tried to stand up and walk to where Shia and everyone were.

"Thanks, Shia, for covering my mistake. You really helped me"
"Yeah, really. At the end, when Lute-kun's knife got repelled, I broke into a cold sweat."
[Me too.]
"I didn't do anything to deserve praising. I only did what was natural, as

young master's servant. Rather than that, to have brought down the twin dragon with just one click, this is an amazing knife."

She was staring at the knife she pulled out from the dragon's head.

The knife in Shia's hand is the [スズメバチナイフ] I made with what little magic liquid metal left–literal translation would be [wasp knife]

As the name implies, just like the hornet, you stab the knife in and the highly pressurized gas inside the knife handle (carbonated gas cylinder, this time I used magic as substitute) will travel through the blade to the tip with the press of the switch. Because of this, the stabbed internal organs or object will be pulverized into smithereens. It's that fearsome of a knife.

Long ago, I've seen a video where the [wasp knife] stabbed a watermelon and blew it up from inside .

Originally, it was created to fight sharks underwater. Nowadays, only hunters that fight bears or aircraft pilots are allowed to buy it.

It was really good that I made it as insurance.

Shia really likes the knife, and she praised it repeatedly.

"I've used many knives, but this really is a good one."
"If you like the knife that much, I'll give it to you."
"Is it okay, young master?"
"Of course! What are you saying? The one who played the most active role was Shia"

Actually, the one who played the most active role was Chrisse, but I personally wanted to give the MVP position to Shia.
Since the magic-stone idea was inspired from Shia's words, and she saved Snow and Chrisse from the fire breath, then covered up my mistake at the end.

Thereupon hearing my words, a soft smile appeared on her face for the first time.

"Thank you, young master. I will use this knife with great care."

Like this, we escaped from the twin-dragon crisis safely.
And we returned to Gomugo's group, who were dying to know the result.

Chapter 066 – Request

The first thing we did after we defeated the Twin Dragon was to encase the dragon's corpse in ice.
According to Shia — 'There aren't many Twin Dragon corpses in a condition as good as this, so if we bring it back we can sell it for a good price', and she insisted on it so we ripped off a scale and leave a wooden tag with adventurer number on it then had her, who still had magic power left encase the dragon's corpse in ice.

This way it wouldn't be eaten by other monsters, nor taken by other adventurers.
After that we'd return to the mining town once, and ask the guild to transport the Twin Dragon. Transportation would cost us, but it'd be insignificant compared to the money we'd get after selling it.

And so, we finally headed back to Gomugo's group and let them know the result.
When they saw our figures still in one piece, they shouted out of joy from within the cave.
It was because we'd returned alive from almost certain death situation.
The ruckus they made couldn't be helped, but they were so loud I was worried my eardrums would burst.

Not everything had went well.

We went back to the open space we planned to make camp on to take back the cargo we left, but the horned horses had turned into Twin Dragon food, and the cargo and personal effects were all crushed to pulp.
It was the result of the Twin Dragon raging about in fury.

We have no other option but to retreat to the Mining Town Vesta for the moment, but we should consider ourselves lucky to escape with our lives, at least.

We'd been fighting all through last night so we decided to make camp here.
As they'd used up quite a lot of magic power, I let Snow and Shia rest first.

“Sorry Lute-kun, Chrisse-chan, let me rest first.”
“Don’t worry about it, you worked very hard for it, Snow.”
[That’s right, and I’m still going strong so I’ll be alright!]

“Thanks Chrisse-chan! Ah, but sleeping with a sweating Lute-kun in a cramped bed and [sniff-sniff]-ing his scent might be good, too…”
“Just hurry and go to sleep already. Recover your magic power!”
“Au, that hurt, Lute-kun~!”

I’d done a karate chop on Snow who had just said something dumb with a straight face.
Really, she never changes.

“Madam, the bed is ready.”

Shia had patched together a simple bed out of the wood from the broken wagons.
The two of them got on the bed to recover their stamina and magic power.

Chrisse and I who remained fought our drowsiness as we stood watch over our surroundings.

Meanwhile, Gomugo and the others collected the scattered cargo and tidied them up.
They also collected our luggage alongside, and sorted through the things that could be used.
I was about to say thanks —

“It’s us who should be thanking you. You saved our lives from the Twin Dragon”

They felt grateful and thanked me, bowing their heads again and again.

I took up their offer and let them collect our luggage.
Thanks to them the [38 Special (9mm)], [7.62mm × Russian Shot], and the [7.62mm × 51 NATO] spare rounds scattered about by the Twin Dragons were gathered in one place.

At dusk Snow and Shia woke up and relieved us from watch duty.
It looked like about half their magic had been restored.
Chrisse and I switched with them and got on the bed.

It was a standing tree with poles propped against it, wooden planks laid underneath those, burnt and torn canopy cloths laid on the planks and a sheet that looked clean covering it all . And it was cramped. It was practically a hamster bed.
But once Chrisse and I crawled into bed, it didn't take long for us to fall asleep.

I didn't even have the energy to lay my hands on my cute cute wife sleeping next to me.
We slept like logs until we were woken up when it was time for us to switch with Snow and Shia for night watch duty.

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The next morning, we set off from the camping grounds.

Before we departed, Snow and Shia cast some more magic on the iced Twin Dragon to thicken the ice.
With that we wouldn't need to worry about it melting for a while.

It took us two days when we went out but because we were walking it took three days to get back.

When we reached the Mining Town Vesta, we rushed to the inn.
Without having to worry about being attacked by monsters like in the camping grounds, I slept soundly.

The next morning we went with Gomugo to the Adventurers' Guild.
The reason we took him along was because I wanted another testimony besides ours.

We reported to the Adventurers' Guild.
We showed them the peeled scale and had them hear not only ours but also Gomugo's testimony.
The Adventurers' Guild showed no doubt and believed our evidence.

We requested the Adventurers' Guild's services for the transportation of the iced dragon.
From here on it'd take more or less 10 days to transport the remains of the Twin Dragon, including the preparatory period and the round trip.

Several adventurers went ahead to identify and secure the Twin Dragon frozen in ice.
A large transport wagon would come later to carry it.
This large transport wagon had magic stones built into it, equipped with the function to make the cargo's weight lighter than normal .
And of course this transportation would cost quite a lot of money.

The Adventurers' Guild had only heard about the Twin Dragon and hadn't examined it in detail but it could easily fetch at least 1000 gold coins.
That's an amazing amount of money.

Which is why they had no problems with deferring the payment.
In return, since the Adventurers' Guild had no way to pay the 1000 gold, they requested us to not ask for it in a lump sum.
I, of course, agreed.

We would also be in big trouble carrying the 1000 gold even if they did pay in full.
The Adventurers' Guild suggested that we deposit the money in the guild. That way we could take the money out from Adventurers' Guilds in different continents.

As long as your tag and password number aren't stolen, there's no worry of it being taken out by other people. In case you withdraw a large amount of money then they will verify the person himself too.

Shia also recommended it, so I carried out the procedure to deposit the reward money to the guild.
But I asked them to let me take out the necessary money immediately when the goods would arrive.

The necessary money was for the merchandise of our client Gomugo which we couldn't protect. I wanted to pay him back for the goods, wagons, and horned horses that he lost.

But the concerned person made a surprised face himself.

“Normally if you’re targeted by a dragon, a twin dragon even, and getting out alive is already godsend! To think you’d even pay me back for the merchandise!”

Since he was affiliated with the Merchant Guild his insurance was guaranteed, but it looked like it wouldn’t be anytime soon so he was very grateful at my offer, bowing his head.

Of course since he would be insured by the guild, I didn’t need to fully reimburse him; just covering up for his deficit seemed to be enough.
I finished the procedure for Gomugo to take out the money as soon as the assessment price of the Twin Dragon came out.

When he takes out that money, we don’t need to be there to witness; he can do it alone.

After this we only need to pay the penalty for the rental wagon & horned horse then we will have resolved all of our money problems.
Gomugo just kept bowing his head as he left.

Next problem is our adventurer level.
This time it’s a quest to level up to level 3. Judging by result alone, the quest was a failure.
But we captured the level 4 class Twin Magicians.
And we subjugated a level 5 class Twin Dragon (young) — not only level 2 or level 3 adventurers rarely encounter such high level quests in such a short time, get caught up in it, and even come out triumphant.

It’d be easy if we were travelling with a level 5 adventurer, but we did that with just us alone. So would they raise our rank? If they do, would they raise it to level 4 or 5 ? Or is it restricted at 3? Looks like this matter can’t be decided soon.

For now they put it on hold.

Before the Twin Dragon’s corpse arrive at mining town, we decided to back to the town Meiya is staying in.

Preparatory time included, the time for the Twin Dragon to be brought back is about 10 days. And we don't know when they will finish assessing it.

Rather than waiting at the mining town, we decided it's a better plan to go back and rest.
Regarding payment for the transportation and assessment, we can just pay at the Adventurer Guild at our home.

And like that, after 3 days, we rented a wagon to leave the mining town and head back home, which we estimate would take 8 days.

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"Lute-sama! Welcome back!"

When we returned, Meiya learnt of it and immediately rushed over.
We just got back and just placed our luggage on the floor.
No matter how fast you are, isn't that a little bit too fast …

Instinctively, I searched my clothes if there is transmission device on it.
She didn't realized what I was doing, and spoke with the high tension voice I haven't heard in a while.

"Lute-sama's first disciple, his right hand, Meiya Dragoon present! I've been continuously waiting for your return!"

Somehow without me knowing she added 1 more title "right hand" to herself on top of "first disciple". If I just let her be will she add more?

"I'm back, Meiya. Thanks for looking after my house while I'm gone."
"I only did what was natural as a disciple! By the way has everyone eaten dinner?"
"No, we haven't ……"
"Well then, how about you stay over at my house today? I've already prepared dinner, I will prepare a hot bath for you to relieve your fatigue from the travel too."

The 3 girls' ears sensitively reacted to the single word "bath".

During the journey, we can only wipe our body with towel soaked in hot water, or wash our body with just a basin of hot water at the inn.
We can't resist the charm of the tub full of hot water, and stretch our hands and feet in it.
Furthermore, at Meiya's house, the wash toilet is fully equipped.

And it's a pain to start making dinner now.
This is where we should depend on Meiya's goodwill.

"Well then I'll take you up on your offer, let's stay over at Meiya's house today, shall we?"
"Thank you, Lute-sama! Well then, please ride the coach outside. I've already prepared for necessities such as change of clothes!"

Meiya joyfully led us outside and beckoned us to get on the carriage waiting there.

Already familiar with Meiya's mansion, I get into the bath first.
I washed my head and body, removed the filth from the journey.
Submerged into the hot bath to the shoulder, I let my voice leak naturally.

Getting out of the bath, I put my hand through the sleeve of the dragon kungfu clothes I am already used to.
In the living room, until the girl gang arrived, Meiya and I drank some chacha while waiting.

With everyone present, we started the meal.

"Then in just a few days, you got the bounty of the twin magicians and exterminated a Twin Dragon !? "

In the middle of the meal, Meiya raised her surprised voice when she heard about the details.

"But in the end, our level up quest has failed, though."
"But, to get that much achievement, you leveling up is assured."
"I hope so too."

I swallowed the stew brimming with melted fat and shrugged.

“But the more I hear, the more wonderful it is. To think that you made a bullet that destroys magic stone on purpose and let it explode inside the body! An idea that a normal person can’t think of even if he struggled for 100 years! As expected of Lute-sama, the god of magic tool development!”
[That was surprising, indeed.]
“I’m personally more surprised at Chrisse-chan who shot the bullet into that small dragon’s eye. It’s absolutely impossible for me.”

The skills they pursue are different.
There’s no point in comparing.

“By the way Shia-san, can you show me the thing called [Wasp Knife] that Lute-sama made?”
“I don’t mind but, why is your breathing is so rough?”

Shia while bewildered, removed the [wasp knife] hanging from her waist and handed it over.
Because I haven’t refilled magic in place of carbon dioxide so even if the switch is pushed, no gas will come out.

“Th,this is the new knife Lute-sama made himself! To think that after stabbing, it can send gas in to destroy the inside! This is a demon king-like idea! In short, Lute-sama is both god and demon king, you have 2 faces! Aaah! Lute-sama’s knowledge truly knows no bound, it feels like I’m turning weird! ”
“You already are, already. Stop rubbing your cheek against the knife, you’re bleeding!”
“M,me!? I have dirtied Lute-sama’s artistic knife with blood!?”
“You’re worrying about the wrong thing here! You’re a girl so take better care of yourself. Snow, sorry but please use magic to heal her.”
“Got it~”

As expected of Snow, even though shehas a bad relationship with Meiya, she healed Meiya’s wound without complaining.
I took the knife from her during that time.
Meiya seems to still want to molest the gimmicked knife, but I ignore her.
Shia cleaned the blooded knife with magic .

“Well in any case, this time, without Shia it would have been dangerous. How do I say it, I was really grateful to have brought Shia as a

slave."
"Yeah! If it was just us, we wouldn't be able to escape from the twin magicians trap nor save the hostage."
[I also learned a lot about how to setup camp and to do night watch.]
"No, someone like me…."

Maybe because Shia wasn't used to getting praised, she lost her words.
…No, if I have to say, she had that look when one couldn't stand receiving an award for something she didn't do.

Suddenly, she somehow recalled the words she muttered after she said "I will suicide attack the twin dragon".

'And please don't worry about me. Lastly, if you'd listen to my only request–'

Remembering it, Shia raised her voice.

"…..Everybody! I am very sorry!"
"Eh, Shia!?"

She suddenly stood up from the chair and then knelton the floor.
Exactly like a knight you see in anime, manga or film.

Not only me, but Snow, Chrisse and Meiya all stared in wonder at Shia's sudden action.
Without minding our reaction, she kept on talking.

"I had been telling all of you lies! I do not possess any [Oracle] ability. I became your slave because of a certain person's instruction! In addition, I'm putting my life on the line here, please!"

Shia lowered her head further and raised her voice.

"Please! Please! Save the High Elf kingdom!"

Her extremely desperate voice resounded within the room.

Chapter 067 – To the High Elf Kingdom

Shia, still kneeling on the floor, revealed her true character.

"I am a guard-maid belonging to the High Elf kingdom Enol. For a certain reason, I became a slave to test you all, please forgive me!"
"P-please wait. I don't understand what are you saying. What do you mean by becoming a slave to test us? From the way Shia said it, it seems that you knew that we would buy a slave."

It was a coincidence that we bought a slave.
Meiya had accidentally eavesdropped on our conversation, and advised us to buy a slave.
Not being there, how did Shia know?

She painfully bit her lip.

"I'm sorry, I can't tell you the details with my own mouth here. But one thing I can say is that if I didn't become a slave, I wouldn't be able to be together with young master."
"Sorry, I don't understand."

She didn't have to become a slave on purpose, couldn't she just called out to me?
While we were perplexed, she bowed sincerely.

"It's not strange for you to be perplexed, but I can't tell you everything here. So for the details, after we have arrived at High Elf kingdom, the person who ordered me to become a slave in order to meet young master, will tell you everything."
"Hey, is the High Elf kingdom such a dangerous place ?"
"No, you're wrong. It's a country on the west side of Fairy continent, full of natural lakes and forests. There are also a lot of people who come there for sightseeing."
"It's just as Snow-san said. I've never heard any stories that the High Elf kingdom has fallen into a crisis or anything."

Snow and Meiya answered my question.

In short, it doesn't seem like they've heard anything like danger approaching the peaceful country.
After hearing their answers, we looked at Shia again.

But she was still petitioning desperately.

"Everything I've told you is the truth. There are no falsehoods. Please, won't you go to Enol, it's fine if you just hear the story out! ……If after you've heard it all, and there's anything that displeases you, just say it, and as your slave, I will even kill myself. That's why, please, somehow, please lend me your power!"

Shia just kept bowing without moving.

[What do we do, onii-chan ?]

Chrisse showed me the mini blackboard.
I fold my arms and think.
It appears that Shia is just a guard maid that received orders from someone and approached us.

It's just that Shia isn't a bad person. Tested us means that she doubted us a bit … so it's probably true that she's troubled.
We've been saved by her many times, we trusted her, so just hearing her out is probably okay ?
If it's beyond our capacities, then we can just refuse and go back.

"…..Okay, if just hearing it out is okay, then let's hear it first, shall we ? First let's go there, and hear the story from the one who instructed Shia, after that it's not late to judge for ourselves. Furthermore, Shia is our comrade, we can't just flat out refuse, can we ?"
"Yep, I thought Lute-kun would say so."
[Me too, I agree with onii-chan's opinion!]
"But going to the Fairy continent's west side alone will take half a year, won't it ?"
"Then please use my airship! By air you can reach the High Elf kingdom in just a bit over 1 month!"

Personal airship …… if I'm not wrong, that thing costs a fortune ……
Or perhaps I should say, as expected of Meiya, the Magic stone Princess.

“Th, thank you, everyone!”

Shia raised her face, tears oozing out of her eyes.
With this, it’s decided that we’re all going to the High Elf kingdom, Enol.

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Since we’ve decided to go to High Elf kingdom, Enol, the mobilization was quick.
The next day, we explained the circumstances to the store where we rented a wagon and paid the penalty.

After that we went to the Adventurer’s guild.
We informed the usual receptionist girl that we’re going to be away from this town for few months.
If the assessment for the twin dragon and the deliberation for our level up finished, just wait since we will listen to it later.

“Well then, just in case, please tell the Adventurer’s guild in Enol about my level up deliberation. Since I may do quests there and have chances to level up. In that case, if they know about our circumstances then they can let us level up right away.”
“Then Lute-sama, please lend me your tag. I’m going to carve [Level up deliberating] on it.”

I handed over the tag as I was told.
As usual she processed it with the quill pen which was a magic tool.
I took the tag she handed back.

After we left the Adventurer’s guild, we headed for the aircraft owned by Meiya.
The aircraft was at the port.
It wasn’t floating on the water, but stored in a rented out storehouse.
It was decided by the law , it seemed.

To make one ship, it took boat load of money .
Furthermore there are also money and connection needed to rent the storehouse, for maintenance,etc… in short, just owning it would take another boat load of money.

That was why even for nobles, it was hard to own an aircraft.
So just the fact that Meiya owned one personal aircraft was enough to show how much of an amazing person she was.

When I showed up at the port's storehouse, I saw Meiya was hurling instructions for the cargo.

"Drinking water can be made with magic so it's unnecessary. Instead of that, load magic liquid metal on. You can treat it roughly to some extent, but be careful to not spill the contents while moving it."

On the outside the aircraft looked like a normal sailing ship. The only different part was that it was flat so it could land on the ground. Its size is bigger than a yacht, but smaller than a normal ship.
It flew with large amounts of magic power stored in magic stones. That's why when it was flying, even if someone were to use magic on the surroundings, they can't be sensed, that's also one of its demerits.

The magic liquid metal I asked for just got loaded on. Just like aircraft in my previous world, this one had weight limits too, it had to transport magic liquid metal and magic stones already, so Meiya had to select the rest of the cargo carefully.

A porter man asked Meiya.

"Meiya-sama, if you want to make the ship light, wouldn't it be better to leave this ?"

The wooden box next to the porter contained three wash toilets.
What nonsense is this man saying!
Isn't that the most important thing!

After I made the wash toilet for my house, the interested Meiya gave the blueprint to the craftsmen and had them replace all the toilets in her house with wash toilets.
At that time I asked her for some spares too.
So that I could replace mine immediately if it were to break.

The ones we were bringing onto the aircraft were also a part of that.
One spare for when the one already installed on the aircraft broke.

One for the place where we would stay in High Elf kingdom.
The last one was spare for the one above .

Each and every one of them was necessary.
Leaving the toilets behind, really, what exactly was that man thinking.
Meiya seemed to understand too, as she scolded the man.

"That is necessary! Leaving that behind is outrageous! Move that right now, and carefully, pay more attention to the safety!"
"U-understood!"

The man was yelled at by Meiya, then he called his subordinates to carry the wash toilets onto the aircraft.
As expected of someone who called herself my first disciple.
……Well, if she were to say something like leaving the wash toilets behind maybe I'd excommunicate her immediately.

While thinking that, I called out to Meiya.

"Good work, Meiya."
"Well if it isn't Lute-sama! You even took the trouble to come to this dusty place to see me! I am extremely moved!"

"How's the progress ?"
"I am preparing so we can leave the day after tomorrow. Anyway, why do you have to take the magic liquid metal with us ? I think it's also available in High Elf kingdom"
"We will be staying on the aircraft for one month right ? So I thought I should use that time to develop a new weapon."
"Ah, a new weapon !?"

When Meiya heard about a new weapon, stardust seemed to sparkle in her eyes.

"W-what kind of thing will it be !?"
"During our last quest our fire powers were lacking, so I'm thinking of developing a weapon to supplement that. That weapon's name is: Panzerfaust."

In 1942, during WW2, the German army developed a ground-breaking

disposable recoilless high explosive anti-tank warhead launcher. That was the [Panzerfaust] — it means [Tank fist] in German.
A thin long iron pipe attached with the warhead which looked like two cups stuck together at the lips. Its full silhouette was a shape like a horsetail .

The German army used the Panzerfaust in a sense like hand grenades against the USSR's tanks to destroy the tracks, damage the engine, … to immobilize it.
Furthermore the launched warhead's recoil was so little even a girl could handle it easily.

Also, the type I was thinking to make this time was [Panzerfaust 60] type.

The first Panzerfaust that was made was [Panzerfaust klein].
Second one was [Panzerfaust 30].
Third one was [Panzerfaust 60].

The reason I didn't choose to make [Panzerfaust klein], [Panzerfaust 30] was that the firing mechanism was too simple, like *pachinko* , which caused a lot of accidents.
Thinking about safety, destructive power (compared to klein, type 30 and on had about 4 times the amount of explosives), the answer was only Panzerfaust 60.

The thing you should notice about this Panzerfaust was that the warhead used was either [shaped charge warhead] or [chemical energy bullet].
[Shaped charge warhead], or [chemical energy bullet] is explosive charge shaped with a hollowed inverse cone, the cavity was covered with a metal sheet (liner) .
With the utilization of explosives …… chemical energy, armor which the bullet body couldn't destroy before, now could be destroyed.
As a result, [shaped charge warhead], or [chemical energy bullet] was the natural enemy of allarmoured weapons, soldiers.

And generally the [shaped charge warhead], or [chemical energy bullet] was misunderstood that it destroy armor due to the Munroe effect, but that was a mistake.

In the 1880s an American technician, Munroe discovered that instead of placing explosives directly to a flat iron plate, explosives with their surface caved inward could open a hole deeper in the iron plates.
That was the [Munroe effect].

In the 1920s a German scientist, Neumann discovered that lining the cavity of the explosives with a metal sheet could penetrate much more.
It was called the [Neumann effect].

By utilizing the [Neumann effect], [shaped charge warhead], or [chemical energy bullet] could penetrate armor that conventional bullets couldn't.
Well then, how does this [Neumann effect] penetrate armor ?

When the warhead's explosives explode, obeying physics, the explosion's energy would focus on the least resistant part which was the cavity (If there was no cavity in the explosives, the energy would be transmitted equally, like how light focuses due to a positive lens, from the surroundings, the energy would be focused into the center point of the cavity. From the actual explosion the focused energy was thought to be about 20%).
Until then it was the Munroe effect.

Due to the explosion energy's focusing, the metal sheet (liner) lined up inside the cavity (usually soft copper was used) would be evaporated (strictly speaking, it wasn't evaporated, but only turned into a liquid like state. Not by heat, but by pressure).
An evaporated jet blast of metal molecules, together with high-temp high-pressure gas would punch a hole into the hard armor plate.
Now that would be Neumann effect.

In short, the [Munroe effect] would focus the explosive energy, the [Neumann effect] would turn the metal liner into a jet blast of metal molecules and destroy the armor.

While omitting the part I couldn't tell, I explained the Panzerfaust to Meiya.
When she was done listening, she was on both of her knees, tears streaming down her big eyes.

“What a marvelous story! I am the most fortunate person in this world! Like this, I get to hear directly from god–no, Lute-sama has exceeded even god! Lute-sama is already a living god desuwa!”
“Stop it, Meiya! There are people looking! Don’t kneel, and don’t you kiss my feet again! ”

I used force to stop Meiya who was about to kiss my feet, and forcefully made her stand up.
I was happy that she idolized me, but I got the feeling that recently the frequency of her actions were turning from “sometimes” to “rampaging”.

“A-anyway, with that in mind, I intended to devote myself into creating the Panzerfaust while we’re moving, just so you know.”
“I understand! This Meiya Dragoon! Will be helping Lute-sama!”
“I, I’m counting on you”

She took my hand, leaned her face closer like she was about to kiss and agreed.
Her heavy breathing and dazzlingly shining eyes are scary.

Like this, we prepared to head off to the High Elf kingdom, Enol.

< Chapter 4 END >

Next time

Chapter 5 Boyhood High Elf story -opening-